

Reagan assails Moscow over missiles

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Ronald Reagan accused the Soviet Union on Friday of backtracking in negotiations on curbing medium-range nuclear missiles and urged Moscow "to come to terms on an equitable agreement." The president issued a statement marking the close of another round of negotiations in Geneva Thursday on reducing the medium-range weapons (see page 8). Reagan criticised the Soviets for reneging on an earlier commitment to include shorter-range missiles in the medium-range treaty. "The Soviets have backtracked from this (earlier) position and are now saying that the question of shorter-range INF missiles should be taken out of the current INF negotiations and be dealt with instead in separate negotiations," Mr. Reagan said. "This new Soviet position on shorter-range missiles would allow the Soviet Union a continued monopoly of these systems and would leave them free to increase their existing force," he added. "This clearly is not acceptable to us or our allies." He said the "crucial issue" was whether Moscow would accept equal constraints on shorter-range missiles in the context of a medium-range agreement "or whether it will insist on maintaining superiority."

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية مستقلة تحت إشراف المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية "الرأي"

Dollar hits European low against yen

LONDON (AP) — The U.S. dollar fell in Europe Friday against all key currencies except the British pound, dropping to its lowest level against the Japanese yen since the late 1940s despite central-bank intervention. Gold prices jumped \$5 an ounce in Zurich and \$6.30 in Zurich. Silver bullion rose above \$6 an ounce for the first time in over a year. The dollar ended the week lower than all major currencies compared with last Friday's late rates. The dollar dropped to 147.65 yen in late London trading despite moves by the West German, French, Japanese and U.S. central banks to buy dollars in the open market to halt the dollar's slide against the yen. The scale of the intervention was not known. The dollar fell in afternoon trading to 147.40 yen, pushed up to 147.90 yen after the banks had intervened, but then fell back again. "The sentiment is overwhelming that the dollar is going lower," said a foreign exchange dealer for a U.S. bank in London. Earlier, in Tokyo, the dollar closed at 149 yen, down from 149.40 yen at Thursday's close and 151.53 yen last Friday. The dollar dipped Tuesday to 148.80 yen, its lowest level since the late 1940s.

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King sends good wishes to Malaysia

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein on Friday sent a cable of good wishes to the king of Malaysia, Sultan Iskandar, on the anniversary of his assuming constitutional powers. In his cable, King Hussein wished the Malaysian monarch health and happiness and more progress and prosperity for the Malaysian people.

Sextuplets born in Amman

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Jordanian woman on Friday gave birth to sextuplets, the first such recorded case in Jordan. The sextuplets included two males and four females. Doctors from the Al Amal Maternity Hospital, where the delivery took place, said that two of the six babies were in "dangerous and critical condition" as their weights varied between 700 and 900 grammes. The doctors said the rate of occurrence for sextuplets was one per million. The mother had to undergo a Caesarian section which was supervised by gynaecologist Maher Al Sarraf, paediatrician Zafar Al Khatib, and anaesthetist Maher Khirfan.

Israel trying for ties with China

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said Friday Israel was making efforts to establish diplomatic relations with China. Foreign ministry official Avraham Amir was expected to meet China's ambassador to the United Nations over the weekend, a ministry spokesman said. Asked in a radio interview if Israel was on the verge of a breakthrough in establishing ties with China and the Soviet Union, Mr. Peres said: "Not yet. We are conducting what is called softening up activity... one should not talk of a breakthrough but of paving the way."

Israel said selling \$800m arms to S. Africa

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel sells between \$600 and \$800 million worth of arms to South Africa a year, the Yedioth Ahronoth newspaper said Friday. Quoting an unnamed foreign affairs newsletter published in London, the mass circulation daily said the figures came from a U.S. presidential report which would be presented to Congress next week. Israeli newspapers generally rely on foreign news dispatches to report arms sales to Pretoria because military censors bar journalists from reporting on the issue from Israel.

Crashes mar Thai air show

BANGKOK (AP) — Three air force F-5E fighter bombers crashed in heavy rains Friday as they were heading towards Bangkok for an air show, police reported. All three pilots were killed.

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Fighting flares anew at Bourj Al Barajneh

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Mortar bombs and machinegun fire hit Beirut's Bourj Al Barajneh refugee camp on Friday, killing one man and injuring two others, Palestinian sources said.

The sources said the firing came from Shi'ite Amal militiamen manning positions around the camp of at least 12,000 people in southern Beirut.

Amal said the front lines were calm. Six women were reported killed by mortar bombs in Bourj Al Barajneh on Thursday. They were among 150 women and children who marched to the camp's western entrance to protest at having to use an Amal-controlled "path of death" on the other side of the camp when they ventured out to buy food.

Amal said last month that it had lifted blockades of Bourj Al Barajneh and nearby Shatila camp. Some relief convoys have reached the camps since then, but others have been turned back.

Palestinians say snipers have killed at least 21 women walking in our out of Bourj Al Barajneh on shopping trips.

Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat has called Arab heads of state on Friday saying half a million refugees in Lebanon are facing a "war of extermination" led by Syria.

Mr. Arafat who was in Baghdad said: "It is clear that Syria, which intervened in west Beirut under the pretext of restoring security, had decided to starve our children to death and kill our women."

"A war of extermination is being launched against the Palestinians in Lebanon. They (Syrians) want half a million refugees killed or displaced," he said.

Text of the letter was made available to AP.

Syria dispatched an estimated

Britain prefers U.N. action over Iran's missiles threat

KUWAIT (AP) — A British minister said his government would prefer the issue of Iran's deployment of missiles near the Strait of Hormuz to be resolved by the United Nations, the Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) reported Friday.

Lord Trefgarne, the minister of state for defence procurement, also told the agency that "we are very supportive of moves within the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) to provide for some sort of collective solution to the problem."

Saudi Arabia and the other five GCC members — Kuwait, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Oman — have been suffering from the offshoots of the Iran-Iraq war on their vital oil-shipping routes.

Iranian attacks on commercial vessels in the southern neutral

Fahd starts private visit to U.K. after ending official talks

LONDON (Agencies) — King Fahd of Saudi Arabia began a private visit to Britain on Friday after concluding a three-day official visit during which he held talks with British government and opposition leaders.

King Fahd spent Thursday, the third and final full day of his state visit, in a round of meetings with senior opposition politicians.

King Fahd played host to leaders from the Labour, Liberal and Social Democratic parties. On Wednesday, he talked with Conservative Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher at her 10 Downing St. residence.

Later Thursday, King Fahd hosted a banquet at Claridge's Hotel. Queen Elizabeth II held a state banquet for the king at Buckingham Palace on Tuesday night.

Hostages' wives reject visiting Israel

BEIRUT (AP) — The Arab wives of two American hostages in Lebanon said Friday they would not visit Israel to discuss a swap of their husbands for Arab prisoners held there.

Jesse Turner, one of four professors kidnapped Jan. 24 from Beirut University College (BUC), said in a videotape released Thursday that fellow hostage Alan Steen was ill and dying.

Mr. Turner called on the professors' wives to visit Israel and the United States in an effort to win their release from captivity in the hands of Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine.

"We are helpless," said Badr Turner, 35, his Lebanese wife. "I am an Arab and Mrs. Feryal Polhill is an Arab," Mrs. Turner told AP. "We cannot go to Israel."

Mrs. Polhill, 45, the wife of American captive Robert Polhill, pointed out that she is a Lebanese citizen of Palestinian descent and added:

"How would it be possible for me to go to Israel? I do not even consider going to Israel because it is against my belief in the Arab cause."

"The only thing we are capable of doing is to ask the kidnappers to release our husbands," she said.

Mr. Turner's wife said: Being pregnant, I badly need Jesse. I plead with the kidnappers to be humanitarian and have mercy. Please release Jesse and the other teachers."

The four professors are Mr. Turner, 39, Mr. Steen, 47, Mr. Polhill, 53, and Mithileshwar Singh, 60, a native of India and a legal resident alien of the United States.

"We're living a new bitter time," the bearded and bespectacled Turner said in the videotape. "We urge our wives and families to go to America and Israel and press there because the keys of our issue are there. Moving in Lebanon is useless."

Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine said early this week it was prepared to free Mr. Steen if the United States succeeded in pressuring Israel into releasing 100 Arab prisoners.

Israel, however, has refused to negotiate with the hostage-holders and the United States has refused to try to pressure the Jewish state into accepting their offer.

Mrs. Turner said she wanted the four professors "to know that we want them to be released soon because we need them. We don't know how we can help them."

She said Mr. Steen's wife, Virginia Rose Steen, 30, was in a "terrible condition" after knowing of her husband's reported sickness.

Mr. Turner quoted an unnamed doctor who had allegedly examined Mr. Steen as saying the communications instructor "had a crisis in his blood pressure."

The patient (Mr. Steen) says that as a child he was hit in his head while playing baseball and he was knocked unconscious," Mr. Turner quoted the doctor's report as saying.

The doctor thinks that the patient needs lab tests and (a) few X-ray photos especially (because), as the doctor says, the shock Alan received may influence his future," Mr. Turner said.

Mrs. Steen has confirmed that her husband was hit when he was younger by a baseball.

"We called the doctor about the statement and the medication in the statement. The doctor who was called in called for his immediate release so he can be in hospital," she said Thursday.

"Anybody under these medications should be in hospital," she said then, her eyes brimming with tears.

"Please, please release my husband," Mrs. Steen asked the kidnappers. She choked several times while talking to reporters.

Bombs explode in West Bank after Israelis close 2 Palestinian campuses

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — A bomb exploded at a soldier's hitchhiking post in the occupied West Bank and two petrol bombs were thrown at an Israeli bus, on Friday, causing no injuries. Two Palestinian campuses also were ordered closed for up to two weeks, the Israeli army said.

The actions were linked to the March 30 anniversary of the shooting deaths of six Arabs by policemen during protests in 1976 against Israeli land confiscations.

The blast occurred eight kilometres southwest of the West Bank city of Hebron, and soldiers immediately launched searches in the area, the army said, declining to elaborate.

On Thursday, the Israeli

occupation authorities on Thursday ordered two Palestinian universities in the occupied West Bank to close temporarily in an attempt to avoid demonstrations at an annual anti-Israeli protest day next week.

Al Najah university in Nabulus was ordered closed for two weeks from Saturday and the Vatican-funded Bethlehem University for five days from Friday, they said.

The move was aimed at preventing demonstrations by Palestinians on "Land Day" next Monday which marks the 11th anniversary of the fatal shooting by Israeli troops of six Arabs.

The 1976 violence erupted during demonstrations against the Israeli authorities' expropriation

of Arab-owned land in Galilee. Two other campuses, Birzeit and Al Rawda College in Nabulus suspended classes on their own for a week on March 24 to avoid violence. The four closures meant more than 7,000 students would be out of classes.

An American professor from the Birzeit went on trial Wednesday on charges of inciting anti-Israeli demonstrations, the army said.

Roger Heacock, 44, denied the charges in an Israeli military court and said he was arrested when he inadvertently was caught up in a group of Palestinian women protesting conditions of their brethren in Lebanon.

The trial continues on March

Carter urges Israeli leaders to reciprocate Arab desire for peace

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter urged Israeli leaders Friday to respond with flexibility to Arab moves for peace with the Jewish state.

Mr. Carter said Syrian President Hafez Al Assad told him earlier this week "he would be very glad to talk directly to Israel under the umbrella of an international conference."

"I think this is a good indication that even Arab leaders who in the past have pledged their eternal hatred of Israel and total rejection of Israel are now in a much more receptive mood," Mr. Carter told AP.

"My hope is that the Israeli leaders will respond accordingly with a degree of flexibility and generosity and that the peace talks can be recommenced," he said.

He made his statements during a tour of a communal farm in the southern Negev desert.

Mr. Carter has acknowledged the Middle East conflict was an "obsession" during his years in the presidency. In his current five-nation tour, he has been trying to give a boost to peace efforts which have been stymied since he brokered the 1979 accord be-

tween Israel and Egypt.

Mr. Carter has toured Syria, Jordan, Egypt and Algeria, and has briefed Israeli leaders on what he learned during his visits there.

The message Mr. Carter had for Israeli leaders at the end of the tour was that several Arab states have moderated their stance towards the Jewish state, and Israel should reciprocate.

Mr. Carter called for an international Middle East peace conference on his arrival here on Thursday.

Israel's shaky coalition government is split on the issue. Right-wing Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir opposes an international conference while Labour Foreign Minister Shimon Peres is actively trying to organise one.

Mr. Peres' peace efforts took a step forward on Thursday when he held unprecedented official talks with three Palestinian leaders known for their support of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) — Gaza lawyer Fayez Abu Rahme, Al Fajr newspaper editor Hanna Shniura and West Bank lecturer Sari Nusseibeh.

His statements in Arab capitals before he reached Israel that the

PLO should take part in an international conference were warmly greeted by Palestinians in the West Bank.

The East Jerusalem daily newspaper Al Quds commented: "This reflects Carter's understanding of the Arab-Israeli conflict. Unfortunately such statements do not reflect the official American attitude."

Mr. Carter has said several times since his arrival that he hoped the United States would take as much an interest in Arab-Israeli peace as he took during his time in office.

The administration of President Ronald Reagan has been reluctant to involve itself actively in the area since the failure of U.S. efforts to bring peace to Lebanon in 1982-83.

On U.S.-Israeli relations, Mr. Carter told Abba Eban, chairman of parliament's foreign affairs and defence committee, the affair of a U.S. navy analyst caught spying for Israel in Washington was embarrassing, but there was no "danger of any permanent damage to our relationship."

On the topic of an international conference, Mr. Carter told reporters Friday: "Everyone who

Moves under way to convene PNC in Algiers

By Lamin K. Andoni
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Preparations for convening the Palestine National Council (PNC) in Algiers on April 20 are under way amid strong signals that the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) is seriously considering participating in what is seen as a reunification session of the Palestinian parliament-in-exile.

Invitations for Palestinian personalities and all factions of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) have already been sent out from the PNC headquarters in Amman and the door has been left open for all Palestinian groups to attend a national Palestinian dialogue due to start in Tunis on April 10. So far, Fatah, the pro-Iraqi Baathist Arab Liberation Front (ALF), the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), the Palestinian Communist Party and the Mohammad Abbas (Abu Abbas) wing of the Palestine Liberation Front (PLF) have agreed to attend, while the PFLP have accepted to join the Tunis dialogue but without prior commitment to take part in the PNC, according to informed sources.

Reports on Friday, however, indicated that the PFLP was seeking "a compromise agreement" with Fatah prior to the beginning of the Tunis talks. According to well-placed Palestinian officials, a top-level meeting between Fatah and the PFLP was expected to take place in Tripoli in the next few days. PFLP leader George Habash is currently in the Libyan capital while a Fatah delegation is scheduled to arrive there during the weekend.

The PFLP's apparent "flexibility," or, more accurately, readi-

ness, to discuss an arrangement with Fatah followed two important developments over the last 10 days. The first, was a five-faction agreement reached in Tunis to call the PNC to meet on April 20. According to the provisions of the agreement, Fatah has agreed to annul the Feb. 11, 1984, Jordanian-Palestinian accord and to set up a collective leadership of the PLO.

Palestinian sources said that the Tunis accord also called for organisational reforms contained in an earlier inter-PLO agreement reached in Aden and ratified in Algiers in June 1984.

Following endorsement of the Tunis accord PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat flew to Algiers where he secured an Algerian pledge to host the PNC.

The second development was a meeting between representatives of all the opposition Palestinian factions, including the renegade Abu Nidal group, with Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi earlier this week. The Libyan leader, who has dramatically shifted his position vis-a-vis the PLO leadership, has been actively supporting Palestinian reconciliation efforts. He discussed with the factions' leaders a position paper presented by the Fatah Central Committee as a basis for the PLO reunification. Although the Fatah proposals were not public, Palestinian sources said that it defined the movement's policies towards relations with Syria, Jordan and Egypt, proposed the basis for a peaceful settlement for the Palestinian question and finally called for organisational reforms. The sources said most of the Fatah proposals were the points which were agreed upon by the five factions included in the Tunis accord which called for

Pakistan complains to U.N. over Afghan air raids

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Pakistan has lodged a protest with the United Nations over Afghan air attacks that reportedly killed scores of people. Officials said Friday that Afghan jets had attacked a Pakistani militia base.

The government said Pakistan's U.N. ambassador met Thursday night in New York with Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar and claimed Afghanistan was attacking Pakistani territory to create panic and disorder.

Officials in Islamabad said Afghan war planes attacked a militia fort Friday in south Waziristan, injuring seven soldiers.

The government said Thursday that five people were killed and eight injured when Afghan jets bombed the Tera Mangal area. A Foreign Ministry official said the latest attacks raised the casualty toll since Monday to 152 killed and 212 wounded.

Afghanistan's government, in radio broadcasts monitored in Islamabad, said the Pakistani charge d'affaires had been handed a strong protest dismissing Islamabad's charges. Radio Kabul said Afghan forces had not launched any attacks on Pakistan.

Afghanistan charged that Pakistani air and ground forces have repeatedly attacked Afghan territory, killing and wounding an unspecified number of people, the radio said.

Radio Kabul said Pakistani jets and artillery launched at least eight attacks since March 14.

Foreign Ministry officials in Islamabad had no immediate comment on the Afghan government charges.

U.S. group forced to give \$135,000 bond before entry to occupied territories

By Sa'ad G. Hattar
Jordan Times Staff Reporter
with agency dispatches

AMMAN — A group of 28 black American pilgrims, who were denied entry to the occupied territories by the Israeli authorities on Thursday, crossed the Jordan River Friday after putting up a \$135,000 bond. The pilgrims are expected back in Jordan on March 31 after visiting Christian holy shrines in the West Bank, according to travel agent Michael Khano who organised their tour.

The agent told the Jordan Times that his uncle called him from Houston, saying he had arranged for the payment of the bond as requested by the occupation authorities. Mr. Khano did not specify the terms of the bond but said it was refundable once the pilgrims left the Israeli-occupied territories.

Mr. Khano said the Israeli authorities "tried every trick in the book" not to allow the pilgrims into the occupied territories. He quoted one of the black tourists as describing the Israeli attitude "an act of colour and racial discrimination."

"The Israelis may have assumed that the tourists were members of the black American Hebrews who immigrated to Dimona in Israel a couple of years ago," Mr. Khano said. This community, he said, was forced to return to the U.S. because of what the Jewish state saw as their conservative nature.

The leader of the 28-member group which crossed the River Jordan on Friday was quoted by AP in Amman as saying Israeli officials first said that the papers of the group were not in order and then demanded a \$150,000 bond. When the agent offered to post the bond as demanded, they were told it could not be done that day, and that the \$1,600 in cash needed for the bond was not refundable, he told the AP.

The Reverend S.D. James of Opelocka, Florida, said the Israeli authorities at the King Hussein Bridge also refused to allow members of the group to call the American consulate in Jerusalem, saying the phone line was not connected to the Holy City less than 30 kilometres away.

"It has changed my perception of Israel, yes," AP quoted the Rev. James as saying after he and the rest of the group were kept for six hours at the crossing point. "There was no food, nor offer of food, nor water, nor soda during the six hours," he told AP at his Amman hotel.

Mr. Khano said it was the first time that the Israeli authorities had denied entry to a group of pilgrims. An earlier incident involved a black American who was turned back but no demand was made for any bonds.

Mr. Khano's travel agency, whose main branch is located in Jerusalem, organises tours for American pilgrims from all denominations to visit the Holy Land via Jordan.

(Continued on page 3)

Iraq hails Tunisia for breaking ties with Iran

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz Friday hailed Tunisia's decision to break diplomatic relations with Iran.

"Tunisia's decision is an example which deserves to be followed (by other countries) against acts of sabotage carried out by Iran's diplomatic missions in several Arab and foreign countries," he told the official Iraqi News Agency (INA).

Tunisia broke with Iran Thursday, accusing Tehran of recruiting its nationals to commit illegal acts abroad and to create anarchy at home by stirring up extremism. Iran Friday accused Tunisia of making false and baseless allegations against it, the Iranian News Agency IRNA reported.

An Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman, quoted by IRNA, said Tunisia failed to offer any evidence to substantiate its allegations. "It has merely stated certain things in general terms and demonstrated an irresponsible reaction," he said.

The agency, monitored in London, quoted the spokesman as saying "the false and baseless allegations" showed that the Tunisian government was "frightened of the growth of the Islamic movement in Tunisia."

Tunisia's action followed the arrest of leaders of an Islamic opposition party in Tunisia and a police crackdown on violent protests by Islamic fundamentalist students.

Iranian diplomats in Tunisia

have been given three days to get out, the Tunisian News Agency, TAP, reported.

The accusations against Iran, made in a Foreign Ministry communiqué, were vaguely worded, but suggested a possible link with events this week in France, where people arrested on arms charges were found to be carrying Tunisian passports.

Meanwhile, a 27-year-old Tunisian named Abouani Hamouda Hassan is under arrest in the small Red Sea state of Djibouti and is said by the authorities there to have confessed that he planted a bomb that killed 11 people, including four French servicemen and four other foreigners.

The Foreign Ministry said the Iranian embassy had violated diplomatic practice calling for "abstention from any act liable to harm the interests and sovereignty" of the host state.

The Iranian embassy was the link between Iranian organisations and pro-Iranian extremists attempting to sow ideological confusion and anarchy in Tunisia, it said.

It said the embassy was involved in the surveillance of other diplomatic missions in Tunis and in "the recruitment of certain elements among the (Tunisian) communities abroad to commit

acts against international law."

This was intended to harm Tunisia's relations with friendly countries, it said, without naming the states concerned.

After severing diplomatic relations with Iran, Tunisia has begun talks with France concerning six Tunisian passport holders detained in Paris as suspected pro-Iranian guerrillas.

Tunisia's ambassador to France consulted French Interior Minister Charles Pasqua Thursday on anti-terrorist moves, the official TAP said, without giving details.

Ambassador Mustapha Zaamouni said in a radio interview that those arrested in Paris belonged to the pro-Iranian Islamic Jihad group, a fundamentalist Shiite organisation which has said it is holding French hostages in Lebanon.

Eight people, including six with Tunisian passports, were arrested in France last weekend accused of planning to carry out attacks there. Quantities of arms and explosives were found.

Three members of Islamic Jihad were executed in Tunis last summer for belonging to a criminal organisation and taking part in attacks on two police stations and a bank.

Another member was sentenced to death in absentia and is still on the run. Others in a 27-strong group were given sentences ranging from life imprisonment to five years jail.

Abu Iyad reports Syria-Iran disagreement on Lebanon

KUWAIT (AP) — A Palestinian commando leader reported disagreement between Syria and Iran on hostages held in Lebanon and on a possible Syrian intervention in Shiite Muslim southern Beirut.

"According to the information we have, the negotiations between Tehran and Damascus, which have been going on since the deployment of Syrian forces in west Beirut on Feb. 22, turned out over the past days to be a failure," said Salah Khalaf.

Mr. Khalaf, also known as Abu Iyad, is the right-hand man of Mr. Yasser Arafat in Fatah, the mainstream commando group under the umbrella of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

He arrived Wednesday on a visit to Kuwait, where an estimated 300,000 Palestinians are employed in various sectors of the Gulf state.

Mr. Khalaf, speaking at a news conference Thursday, said the talks on Lebanon were being conducted by Syria on one side, and Iran and the Shiite Hezbollah, or Party of God, on the other.

He said one of the disagreements centred on the foreign hostages held in Lebanon, apparently because Syria felt Hezbollah's conditions for helping gain their release were too tough.

Mr. Khalaf said that in return for helping ensure the release of hostages, Hezbollah was stipulating that Syria ensure the release of 17 prisoners in Kuwait, two in France and two in West Germany. Although Hezbollah itself has not claimed responsibility for holding hostages, it shares the same pro-Iranian political views as several of the groups that hold foreign captives.

Three of 17 terrorists convicted for the blasts at the U.S. and French embassies and other buildings in Kuwait in December 1983 were sentenced to death in 1984. They have not yet been executed.

The two prisoners in France are Anis Naccache, convicted in the attempted assassination of former Iranian Prime Minister Shahpour Bakhtiar, and Georges Ibrahim Abdallah, recently sentenced to life imprisonment for complicity in the murders of two diplomats.

It was not clear why Mr. Khalaf listed Abdallah as being one of the prisoners Hezbollah wanted released.

The prisoners in West Germany are Mohammad Ali Hamadi, arrested at Frankfurt Airport after explosives were allegedly found in his luggage, and wanted in the United States in connection with the TWA hijacking in Beirut, and his brother Ali Abbas Hamadi, arrested at the same time and suspected of involvement in the kidnappings in Beirut of two Germans.

Greece orders military alert in Aegean crisis

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — Greece on Friday placed its air force, navy and army on alert as a Turkish seismic research ship steamed toward the Aegean Sea, challenging Greek claims on seabed oil rights around its scattered islands.

Military sources said air force and naval personnel were told to report to their units by Friday evening.

The sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said all leave was cancelled indefinitely in what appeared to be the biggest Greek military build-up since the two NATO allies came to the brink of war over Aegean oil in Jan. 1975.

Premier Andreas Papandreu met with armed forces leaders, then briefed the cabinet on the crisis, government officials said. "We don't intend to remain with hands crossed," the premier

told reporters as he left the cabinet meeting.

A long-running Greek-Turkish dispute over seabed mineral rights flared suddenly Thursday when Turkey announced that the state-run Turkish Petroleum Enterprise (TPAO) was resuming exploration outside Turkish territorial waters.

Its research vessel, Sismik, was reported heading for the Aegean with an escort of Turkish warships to test for oil in international waters in four areas around the northern Greek islands of Mytilene (Lesvos), Lemnos and Samothrace.

In Ankara, the Turkish general staff announced that the Sismik would reach open sea in the Aegean on Saturday, but declined to say how many warships were in the escort.

A general staff spokesman said some Turkish Armed Forces units were on alert but gave no further details of troop movements.

On Thursday, Greece asked Turkey to agree that the International Court of Justice at The Hague should settle the Aegean continental shelf dispute, but warned that Greece would "take all necessary measures to ensure our sovereign rights."

Greece claims ownership of mineral rights beneath most of the Aegean on the grounds that each of its 2,000-odd Aegean islands is entitled to its own continental shelf.

Turkey, which includes only a handful of Aegean islands in its territory, says oil rights in the continental shelf should be divided between the two countries on the principle of equity.

Residents of Alexandroupolis in northern Greece said troops and munitions were being transported to forward positions along the Evros River that marks the Greek-Turkish border in Thrace.

"There was military transport rumbling through town all night, and ships leaving port with military equipment bound for Samothrace," said the local official who asked for anonymity.

In the northern city of Salonika, military sources said the Third Army was placed on alert and officers' leave was cancelled.

Last December, Greek and Turkish troops exchanged fire briefly in a frontier incident that left a Greek and two Turkish soldiers dead, but both governments moved quickly to smooth over the incident.

'U.S. has no pact with Israel over spy probe'

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. government has said that Israel had not made any agreement with the United States to make available the contents of its internal probe of the Pollard spy affair.

Asked whether such an agreement existed, State Department spokesman Charles Redman told reporters: "No."

The Israeli government has appointed a two-member board to investigate the recruitment of former U.S. navy analyst

Jonathan Jay Pollard to spy for Israel. Pollard was sentenced to life imprisonment in the United States earlier this month for selling secrets to the Israelis.

A committee of Israel's parliament is conducting a separate probe of the operation.

The United States has strongly urged Israel to investigate the affair, which Israel contends was an unauthorized operation, and to punish Pollard's two main handlers, both of whom have recently been promoted.

Reagan likens arms sales to Iran to paying ransom

COLUMBIA, Missouri (AP) — President Ronald Reagan has told a group of school children that his decision to sell arms to Iran was "a little like paying ransom."

But "I won't make that mistake again," Mr. Reagan said.

Visiting a class at Fairview Elementary School, Mr. Reagan was asked by one student about "all the publicity in the press and stuff" and "what it was that made it worthwhile."

Although the sixth-grade girl appeared to be asking why Reagan believed it was worthwhile being president, he launched into his reasons for appointing the Tower Commission and his version of the secret arms sales to Iran.

Mr. Reagan said he intended to

reach out to those in Iran who wanted "a better relationship" with the United States.

He called Iran a "very strategic country" and told the students that he believed the group holding the U.S. hostages in Lebanon was "getting its direction" from Iran's leader, the Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

As he has before, Mr. Reagan recounted how the Iranians asked for the arms as a measure of the U.S. government's sincerity when they began negotiations.

"I'm afraid it wasn't carried out the way we had thought it would be. It sort of settled down to trading arms for hostages," Mr. Reagan said. "That's a little like paying ransom to a kidnapper. If you do it, the kidnapper is just encouraged to take someone else."

Herzog reduces sentences for 3 Jewish terrorists

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli President Chaim Herzog has reduced the life sentences of three Jewish terrorists convicted of killing Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, a presidential spokeswoman said Friday.

Menachem Livni, Shaul Nir and Uzi Sharvatz, members of an anti-Arab terrorist group known as "the Jewish Underground," were convicted of mur-

der and sentenced to life imprisonment after killing three Arab students in an attack on the Hebrew Islamic College in 1982.

The presidential order shortens their jail terms to 24 years and means they will now be eligible for a further one-third reduction for good behaviour.

Legal experts say the three could now be allowed short home visits with their families.

France plans no diplomatic action until after trial of eight suspects

PARIS (AP) — France will wait for the trial of eight suspected gunmen reportedly linked to Iran before considering diplomatic action, a spokesman for Premier Jacques Chirac said Friday.

Spokesman Denis Baudouin said Tunisia displayed "a certain courage" in breaking relations with Iran on Thursday, but added, "the Tunisians are the Tunisians. The French are the French."

He told reporters they should remember that Britain did not break relations with Syria until the conviction on Oct. 26 of Nezar Hindawi, after evidence at

his trial allegedly pointed to Syrian involvement in his effort to plant a bomb aboard an Israeli passenger jet taking off from London.

"The government, if it has positions to take and decisions to announce one day, will not do so until the justice system has decided what it has to decide" in the case of the suspected gunmen arrested in Paris, Mr. Baudouin said.

Asked what effect the case in which eight people, including six carrying Tunisian passports, would have on France's effort to improve relations with Iran, Mr.

Baudouin replied, "for the moment, none."

Mr. Baudouin cautioned reporters against concluding that France would eventually consider a diplomatic reaction, but twice volunteered the comparison with Britain's actions against Syria after the Hindawi trial.

The eight people arrested last weekend were charged Thursday with criminal association and with possessing arms and explosives for use in a terrorist attack. In a statement, the French Interior Ministry said Wednesday "the group was 'getting ready to commit particularly dangerous attacks' in France."

Chad reportedly raids Libyan troops in Sudan

KHARTOUM (Agencies) — Chadian warplanes have attacked Libyan forces said to be in western Sudan illegally, killing more than 100 Libyans, the Khartoum newspaper Al Ayam reported Friday.

The independent publication said the raid on the Kulbus area in Sudan's Darfour province adjacent to the border with Chad was mounted by French-built Mirage planes. It did not say

when. There was no immediate official confirmation of the report as government offices were closed on Friday.

Chad's charge d'affaires in Khartoum, Abbas Kotti, told the Associated Press in a telephone interview he had not been contacted by the Sudanese government about the reported raid.

But Mr. Kotti said his government had warned Sudan about

"the danger posed by the Libyan presence in Sudan." He said Chad told Sudan that if Libyan troops on Sudanese territory attacked Chad, "we will have the right to attack them and chase them anywhere."

Mr. Kotti said the Libyans in Sudan last Sunday launched a three-pronged attack on the Chadian areas of Al-Tine, Kulbus and Adde and that Chadian forces "repulsed the attackers."

TV & RADIO		WHAT'S GOING ON		FOR THE TRAVELLER		USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.	
JORDAN TELEVISION Tel: 77311-19		TODAY'S EVENTS		QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT		EMERGENCIES	
PROGRAMME ONE 15:30 Koran 15:50 Programme Review 16:00 Cartoons and children programmes 16:40 Inventive Boy 17:00 Children's programme 17:15 Chocky 18:00 French Teaching programme 18:25 Arabic series 19:15 Local programme 19:45 Programme review 20:00 News in Arabic 20:45 Arabic series 21:40 Arabic play 23:00 News summary in Arabic 23:10 Play continued		EXHIBITIONS * The Italian embassy presents an exhibition entitled "Planning on the Past: The Rome Project" at the Royal Cultural Centre (until March 27). * A plastic arts exhibition by Yarmouk University's painting club at the French Cultural Centre (until April 2).		ARRIVALS ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1) 04:05 Sana'a (RJ) 04:25 Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ) 05:00 Amman (RJ) 05:20 Cairo (RJ) 05:30 Karachi, Dubai (RJ) 05:30 Damascus (RJ) 14:05 Dhahran, Kuwait (RJ) 14:05 Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (RJ) 17:00 Larnaca (RJ) 17:20 Cairo (RJ) 17:25 New York, Vienna (RJ) 18:05 Copenhagen, Frankfurt (RJ) 19:40 Tripoli (RJ) 01:00 Baghdad (RJ)		NIGHT DUTY AMMAN: Dr. Mohammad Horani 898552 Dr. Ali Asa'ad 879719 Salam Pharmacy 636730 Nabulsi Pharmacy 723672 Nabulsi pharmacy 680056 Khalaf pharmacy 778653 Firas pharmacy 661912 Al Fardous pharmacy 787336	
PROGRAMME TWO 18:00 Entree libre 18:30 French documentary: L'homme en terre 19:00 News in French 19:15 French documentary 19:30 News in Hebrew 19:45 Perspective 20:00 News in Arabic 20:30 Music Box 21:30 Dad's Army 22:00 News in English 22:30 Feature film: "Obsessive Love"		LECTURE * Dr. Arnold Koerte will give a lecture on undercurrents in German architecture at 11:00 a.m. at the Department of Architecture, University of Jordan.		DEPARTURES ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1) 06:45 Amman (RJ) 11:00 Vienna, New York (RJ) 11:00 Tripoli (RJ) 11:30 Beirut, Dubai (RJ) 11:45 Rome, Madrid (RJ) 12:00 Geneva, London (RJ) 12:15 Frankfurt, Brussels (RJ) 13:00 Larnaca (RJ) 13:30 Cairo (RJ) 19:30 Kuwait (RJ) 20:30 Beirut, Dubai (RJ) 20:45 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ) 21:00 Jeddah (RJ) 21:00 Baghdad (RJ)		TAXIS: Rainbow taxi 637349 Nabulsi taxi 663003 Karak taxi 668761 Qasbi taxi 650406 Jihad taxi 673663 Qasbi taxi 671620 Latif taxi 790538 Qadisiyah taxi 637349	
RADIO JORDAN 855 KHz. AM & 99 MHz. FM & partly on 95.60 KHz. SW Tel: 74111-19		PLAYS * "Arabic plays for children daily at 10:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. at the Royal Cultural Centre (until March 31)." * An Arabic play from Bahrain at 8:00 p.m. daily at the Royal Cultural Centre (until March 31).		WEATHER Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology. An increase in temperature is expected with northwesterly moderate winds. In Amman, winds will be north-easterly moderate and calm sea.		HOSPITALS Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32 Khalid Maternity, J. Amn 642816 Akhlaq Maternity, J. Amn 642412 Jabel Amman Maternity 642362 Mallus, J. Amn 736140 Palestine, Shamsiah 664714 Shamsiah Hospital 669131 University Hospital 84584565 Al-Basheer Hospital 6672779 The Islamic, Abdali 66612757 Al-Ahli, Abdali 6641646 Italian, Al-Mashraef 7770103 Al-Basheer, J. Ashrafieh 7751126 Army, Madaba 89161215 Queen Alia Hospital 6224030 Amal Hospital 674155	
855 KHz. AM & 99 MHz. FM & partly on 95.60 KHz. SW Tel: 74111-19		CULTURAL CENTRES Royal Cultural Centre Tel. 6610267 American Centre 644371 British Council 6361478 French Cultural Centre 637009 Goethe Institute 641993 Soviet Cultural Centre 644203 Spanish Cultural Centre 624049 American International Centre 639771 Haya Arts Centre 655195 Hussein Youth City 6671816 Y.W.C.A. 641793 Y.W.M.C.A. 646251 Amman Municipal Library 637111 Univ. of Jordan Library 843333		OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2) 02:45 Belgrade (JU) 11:35 Cairo (MS) 13:45 Kuwait (KU) 14:45 Tripoli (LU) 15:10 Riyadh (SV) 17:15 Paris, Damascus (AF) 18:25 Amsterdam, Larnaca (KL) 19:30 Rome, Damascus (AJ) 21:00 Frankfurt (LH)		GENERAL Jordan Television 773119 Radio Jordan 77411179 Ministry of Tourism 642311 Hotel complaints 666412 Price complaints 661176 Telephone information 12 Jordan and Middle East calls 10 Overseas calls 17 Repair service 11	
855 KHz. AM & 99 MHz. FM & partly on 95.60 KHz. SW Tel: 74111-19		MUSEUMS "Children's Heritage and Science Museum" Fun and knowledge for all ages, plus a small planetarium at the Haya Arts Centre. Open all week 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed on Friday. Fakhre Museum Jewellery and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 637160. Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabel Al Qal'a (Crusader Hill). Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays. Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculptures by contemporary Islamic artists from most of the Muslim countries and a collection of paintings by 19th century orientalist artists. Mount Jabal Luveldah. Opening hours: 10:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 630128. Martyrs' Memorial (Military Museum): Collocated at 11:00 a.m. at the Martyrs' Memorial. Military memorabilia dating from the Arab Revolt of 1916. Sports City, Amman. Opening hours 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Closed Saturdays. Tel. 664240.		DEPARTURES ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1) 06:45 Amman (RJ) 11:00 Vienna, New York (RJ) 11:00 Tripoli (RJ) 11:30 Beirut, Dubai (RJ) 11:45 Rome, Madrid (RJ) 12:00 Geneva, London (RJ) 12:15 Frankfurt, Brussels (RJ) 13:00 Larnaca (RJ) 13:30 Cairo (RJ) 19:30 Kuwait (RJ) 20:30 Beirut, Dubai (RJ) 20:45 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ) 21:00 Jeddah (RJ) 21:00 Baghdad (RJ)		MARKET PRICES Upper/lower price in fils per kg. Apple (All kinds) 310 / 270 Banana 320 / 270 Banana (Mekansani) 320 / 270 Beans 460 / 400 Broad beans 120 / 80 Broccoli 90 / 60 Cabbage 80 / 50 Cauliflower (yellow) 90 / 60 Cauliflower (white) 200 / 150 Cucumber 150 / 100 Eggplant (small) 120 / 80 Eggplant (large) 100 / 70 Garlic (dry) 600 / 500 Grapefruit 130 / 100 Lemon 130 / 100 Marrow 140 / 100 Onion (dry) 140 / 100 Onion (green) 140 / 100 Orange (All Syria) 320 / 280 Orange (Shamouni) 250 / 180 Peas 480 / 400 Pepper (hot) 480 / 400 Pepper (sweet) 360 / 200 Potato 150 / 100 Spinach 90 / 60 Tomatoes 100 / 80 Turnip 80 / 50	

NEWS IN BRIEF

Arab vets send cable of support to King

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein on Friday received a cable of support and appreciation from Dr. Ismail Rida, the chairman of the 18th conference of veterinary medicine, currently being held in Cairo by the Egyptian society of veterinary medicine. The Arab delegations participating in the conference, expressed their appreciation and support for His Majesty's efforts and endeavours aimed at regaining the occupied Arab territories and the cable expressed support and backing for the King's supportive stand of Iraq in its defence of the eastern Arab flank against Iranian aggressors.

Forum organises student debate

AMMAN (Petra) — The Forum Humanum will today organise a debate at the University of Jordan's Faculty of Agriculture on the characteristics and features of democracy in Jordanian and Chinese societies. A team of Chinese students who are studying at the university as well as a team of Jordanian youths will take part in the debate.

Experts to open solar energy talks today

AMMAN (Petra) — An Arab technical committee entrusted with discussing solar energy applications today opens a meeting at the Amman-based Arab Organisation for Standardisation and Metrology (ASMO). The three-day meeting will discuss the organisation's plans and projects connected with solar heaters used for domestic purposes. Delegates from Jordan, Tunisia, Sudan, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco and a number of Arab organisations will take part in the meeting. Working papers dealing with solar heating and the work of the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) in this field will be discussed by the participants.

VTC to discuss survey on manpower

AMMAN (Petra) — The Vocational Training Corporation (VTC) will hold a seminar on Sunday to discuss a survey on manpower in Jordan. The survey was conducted by the VTC in cooperation with the Ministries of Planning, Higher Education and Labour as well as the General Statistics Department. The Cairo-based Ford Corporation donated \$50,000 to cover the costs of the survey which aimed at defining the characteristics and trends of labour and labour forces in Jordan in the industrial sector.

Ministry prepares for admission exams

AMMAN (Petra) — The secondary admission exams for all students in Jordan will be held on June 14, Education Ministry sources announced Friday. The sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity said the ministry has completed the distribution process of all application orders to be used by all students who are to take the exams. The ministry has also selected centres to host the exams. Applications for the exams will be received by the ministry and its affiliated departments as of April 1 and will run through May 16, the sources added.

W. German archaeology director arrives

AMMAN (Petra) — The director of archaeological institutes in West Germany, Mr. Edmund Buchner, arrived here on Friday on a several-day visit to Jordan during which he will hold talks with Department of Antiquities Director General Adnan Al Hadidi on means of further bolstering archaeological relations between Jordan and West Germany. Mr. Buchner will also visit a number of tourist and historical sites in Jordan.

Carter urges positive Israeli response

(Continued from page 1)

will participate must know that the international aspect is to bring people together for discussion. The actual negotiations on specifics would certainly be bilateral in nature.

In a related development, Mr. Peres fielded questions from Arabs in four countries on Thursday and said the best way to overcome an impasse in peace talks was to "share the government" rather than divide up disputed land.

The unprecedented programme was broadcast by Israel radio's Arabic language news show. Some 100 Arab questioners called the Israeli studio via Cologne, West Germany, and questions from some 30 were broadcast.

"The time has come to make peace," said Peres, capping the 105-minute show. "Despite our differences we can talk as neighbours and talk sense, even if not face to face, then voice to voice."

Most questioners pressed Mr. Peres about his peace policies. Mr. Peres repeatedly defended Israel's refusal to talk with the

PLO.

But he also proposed a way out of a year-long deadlock in peace efforts in response to a question by an Israeli Arab questioner.

"When you have two people living on the same land you can either divide the land or share the government," Mr. Peres said. "It looks to me that the best bet right now is to share the government, so the Palestinians will live in dignity, peace, equality, and Israel will be able to secure her own defences."

For two hours, Mr. Peres answered questions in English on Israeli-Arab relations. The queries were asked in Arabic. "The Arabs are not our enemies... the only enemy is belligerence and hatred and war," Mr. Peres told an Egyptian caller.

At the end of the broadcast Mr. Peres said:

"I think that after our talk, you didn't stop being Arabs and didn't stop being Israelis, but both of us felt rather strongly that despite the difference in our nationalities or religion, we can really talk sense."

Moves under way to convene PNC

(Continued from page 1)

proportional representation for all Palestinian factions.

Although described as "positive" by the PFLP, the Fateh proposals fell short of satisfying all Palestinian opposition factions which issued a joint statement in Tripoli on Wednesday outlining their position on the convening of a new PNC session. The statement called on the PLO leadership to sever all contacts with Egypt, to announce an official annulment of the Feb. 11 agreement with Jordan and to cancel the resolutions endorsed by the 17th session of the PNC held in Amman in 1984. The signatories of the statement included the PFLP, the DFLP, the Talat Yacoub wing of the PLO, Fateh rebels, the PFLP-General Command, the Popular Struggle Front (PSF), and Abu Nidal's "Fateh Revolutionary Council. On Thursday, however, the DFLP followed with another statement

explaining that although it agreed in principle with the political stands contained in the joint communiqué it had set "no preconditions to attend the PNC."

Despite the strict preconditions outlined by the Tripoli statement, observers said it represented "a change in the position of the Palestinian factions, especially that the demands did not include a call to remove Mr. Arafat from the PLO leadership. The most interesting aspect in the Tripoli statement, however, remains in the fact Abu Nidal's group has clearly showed willingness to return to the PLO on the basis of a Palestinian consensus. Abu Nidal's attitude started to change last November when it fought jointly with Mr. Arafat's Fateh forces in defence of Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon against Syrian-backed Amal militiamen and vehemently rejected any ceasefire and any agreement which stipulated the elimination of Fateh forces in Lebanon.

Religious ceremonies mark holy feast of Al Israa wal Mi'raj

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan along with the Arab and Muslim world on Thursday celebrated Al Israa wal Mi'raj feast (the anniversary marking the Prophet Mohammad's nocturnal journey and ascension to heaven). Religious ceremonies were held in mosques around the country and preachers spoke about the meaning and significance of the holy occasion.

The main celebration was held at the new Maghribah Ibn Shuaba mosque in Independence Street, Amman, under the patronage of His Majesty King Hussein. The worshippers were addressed by Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Sheikh Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat who spoke of Muslims duty towards Al Aqsa Mosque in Arab Jerusalem and the need for liberating the holy shrine from Israeli rule.

Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Yusef Hamdan also addressed the worshippers and underlined the great importance of Jerusalem for Muslims. He also spoke of the teachings of the Prophet Mohammad and the Islamic faith. Among the worshippers were His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Minister



His Majesty King Hussein, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, senior officials, Cabinet members and religious leaders on Thursday pray at the new Maghribah Ibn Shuaba mosque on the occasion of Al Israa wal Mi'raj (Petra photo)

Zaid Rifai, Chief of the Royal Court Marwan Al Qasem, Court Minister Adnan Abu Odeh, Armed Forces Commander in Chief General Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker and a number of Cabinet ministers.

Before the celebration, King Hussein inaugurated the new mosque.

Cables

On the occasion King Hussein received cables of good wishes from senior government officials and prominent public figures. All government departments and public institutions were closed on Thursday in commemoration of the holy occasion.

UDD project selected as model for U.N. conference on human settlements

By Mary West
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Urban Development Department's (UDD) East Wahdat upgrading project has been selected as a demonstration project at the United Nations Commission on Human Settlements tenth (commemorative) session, to be held in Nairobi from April 6-16.

1987 was designated by the U.N. General Assembly as the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless (IYSH), and the session is an important landmark in the whole IYSH programme of action. It commemorates the first United Nations conference on human settlements, held in Vancouver in 1976, and will review national action and international cooperation in the field of human settlements, and assess future perspectives and trends worldwide up to the year 2000.

Several heads of state are expected to attend the conference, and a high level delegation will represent Jordan, including Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Yusef Hamdan Al Jaber, Director General of the Housing Corporation Shafiq Al Zawaidh and UDD Director General Hisham Zagha.

According to the regional director of the U.N. Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), Mr. Ali Shaboun, the UDD's East Wahdat project is one of the several projects worldwide that have been selected as models for the conference because they demonstrate innovative and effective ways of providing shelter for the poor and disadvantaged.

Security of tenure

East Wahdat was formerly a

squatter settlement where nearly 400 families lived in tin shacks in deplorable conditions with neither secure tenure, nor basic services such as water, electricity or sanitation. In an upgrading project that began at the end of 1982, the UDD negotiated security of tenure for the squatters, and assisted them in getting low-interest loans from the Housing Bank to pay for their plots and build houses. Sewers, water supply and electricity were installed, footpaths were built, and the area now has a community centre and

a vocational training centre for women.

The outstanding aspect of the project was the incentive it provided to the families to pool their resources and work hard to improve their homes and neighbourhood, once their tenure was made secure. The project demonstrates the importance of secure tenure, community participation and self help, and affordable building loans, which are proving to be key issues in low-income shelter projects worldwide.

Pharmacists hold seminar on dispensing antibiotics

AMMAN (Petra) — A one-day seminar held on Thursday by the Jordanian Pharmacists Association (JPA) has recommended that dialogue should continue with the Health Ministry on dispensing antibiotics. The ministry earlier issued strict rules prohibiting the dispensing of antibiotics without a doctor's prescription.

The seminar also recommended that strong antibiotics be dispensed only by specialists who should first conduct allergy tests on patients before prescribing the drug, and also called on the government to speed up the application of a national health insurance scheme in Jordan. The seminar commemorated the establishment of the Arab Pharmacists Federation in the city of Jerusalem on April 2, 1966.

The seminar, held at the Professional Associations Complex in Amman, heard several working papers which also dealt with the question of antibiotics, along with other related subjects. JPA President Ghaleb Sabbarini said that antibiotics were discussed because they form 38 per cent of the total sale of drugs in Jordan.

GUVS branch elects new board

AMMAN — The Amman branch of the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) has elected a nine-member board of directors, approved a 1987 budget of JD 272,000 and endorsed a report on the board's achievements, financial and administrative performance in 1986.

Dr. Abdullah Al Khatib, who

is GUVS president, received 122 votes followed by Fakri Bilbeisi who received 108, but Mr. Bilbeisi was elected chairman of the board for the Amman branch of GUVS during the first session. Representatives of 147 charitable and voluntary societies in the Amman region took part in the voting which was held at the Amman Chamber of Industry.

Jordan, India sign minutes of talks on economic cooperation

By a Jordan Times
Staff Writer
with agency dispatches

AMMAN — The minutes of the annual meeting of the Jordanian-Indian committee on economic cooperation were signed in New Delhi on Friday after three-days of talks at the under secretary level.

The minutes of the meetings, which were signed by Under Secretary at the Trade and Industry Ministry Mohammad Al Saqqaf and his Indian counterpart call for increasing the volume of bilateral trade and maintaining the present level of Jordanian exports of phosphates, potash and fertilisers to India.

According to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, which reported the signing ceremony, both sides also took practical measures to bring to light at least one of the several suggested joint industrial projects for fertilisers. Petra did not disclose whether the project will be based in Jordan or India

but said that Jordanian raw materials will be used in the manufacturing process and the final product would be marketed in the two countries.

Statistical figures on bilateral trade transactions reveal the balance of trade was in favour of Jordan with India importing 20 per cent of the Kingdom's total exports.

In 1986, India imported 1 million tonnes of phosphates, and a total of 360,000 tonnes of potash and fertilisers. In the same year Jordan imported Indian goods worth \$15 million.

However, the 1986 figures of Indian exports have tripled from the level of JD 800,000 in 1985, Mr. Saqqaf told the Jordan Times before his departure for New Delhi.

The Indian minister of trade received Mr. Saqqaf on Friday and both men discussed means of further consolidating bilateral trade ties.

The meeting was attended by Jordan's ambassador to India

Jamal Khoutat.

Visit to Indonesia

Mr. Saqqaf's visit to the Far East will also take him to Indonesia for four days of official talks in Jakarta.

Indonesia is also a major importer of Jordanian phosphates. Jordan hopes to increase its sales of phosphates to Jakarta from the present level of 500,000 tonnes for 1986 to 900,000 tonnes for this year.

Jordanian imports from Indonesia include timber, coffee, tea, textiles and fabrics.

Accompanying Mr. Saqqaf on his 10-day trip are Mr. Assem Al Hindawi, director of the Trade Ministry's department for developing economic cooperation and increasing imports, and Mr. Ahmad Al Tarawneh and Mr. Wanas Al Hindawi, senior officials at the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company and the Arab Potash Company respectively.

Preparations continue for charity walk across Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — Final preparations are going ahead in Ramtha, Amman and Aqaba for the first ever sponsored walk from Ramtha in the north to Aqaba port in the south, a distance of 420 kilometres. The walk is due to start on April 1 and will take 10 days to complete.

The walk is attracting the support and backing of all public sectors and that of the diplomatic corps in Jordan. Spanish Ambassador Emilio Menendez has announced that he will participate in the march and will walk the 40 kilometre distance between Amman and the Gateway Hotel, near the Queen Alia International Airport.

The walk, under the theme of "Charity March across Jordan" has been divided into three stages, the first from Ramtha to the Plaza hotel in Amman, the second from the Plaza Hotel to the Gateway Hotel and the third from the hotel to Aqaba. The proceeds of the march which is expected to raise JD 50,000, according to the organisers, will help finance the treatment of neurological patients in Jordan.

As many as 500 different companies, clubs, schools and individuals have already shown support for the march which has been organised by the Society for Neurological Patients.

U.S. joins 24-hour mail delivery service

AMMAN (Petra) — A fast mail delivery service between Jordan and the U.S. via regular flights of the Royal Jordanian airline (RJ) became operational on Friday. With the U.S. joining the Ministry of Communication's 24-hour mail delivery service, the number of Arab and foreign countries included in the service is now 19.

These countries are: Egypt, Iraq, Tunisia, Oman, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Britain, West Germany, France, Austria,

Taiwan, the Netherlands, Greece, Japan, Cyprus and the U.S.

Ministry of Communications Under Secretary Mansour Ibn Tarif said that the express mail delivery service would seek to cover more countries and he called on citizens to benefit from this scheme in sending their urgent postal correspondence.

Operations of incoming and out-going express mail services are handled by the central post office in downtown Amman.

Press foundation to distribute dividends to share holders

By a Jordan Times Staff
Reporter

AMMAN — The Jordan Press Foundation company has announced it will distribute 17 per cent in share dividends to its shareholders, — a profit distribution of 170 fils on each share.

The company, publishers of the Arabic and English language dailies Al Rai and the Jordan Times, became a fully-fledged public shareholding company as of Jan. 1, 1986.

During the company's ordinary general assembly meeting held on Thursday, chairman of the board Mahmoud Al Kayed revealed that both newspapers were selling a total of 80,000 copies a day,

which were read by 400,000 people. The gathering, which was attended by 88.4 per cent of the company's shareholders, also endorsed an administrative and a financial report for 1986 prepared respectively by the foundation's board of directors and auditors.

Fahd Al Fanek and Co. was nominated and selected as the foundation's financial auditors for 1987.

Prior to the company's change of status — from a private shareholding company into a public one — it was owned by Mr. Kayed, Mr. Jouma Hammad, Mr. Raja Elissa, Mr. Mohammad Al Amad and Mr. Suleiman Arrar.

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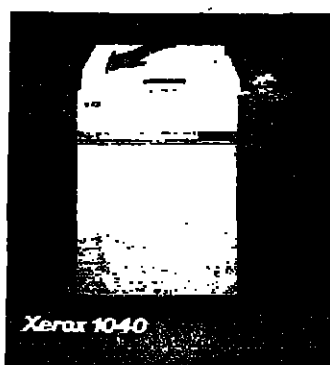


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A Palestinian refugee woman (right) turns an UNRWA school classroom in one of Lebanon's camps into a playground for children (UNRWA photo).



Palestinian refugees flee a besieged camp during Beirut's "war of the camps" (UNRWA photo)

Palestinian women of the camps: A special way of life

By Zahra Al Bahr

THE difficulty of writing about camps in relation to women is that they contain so many highly contradictory realities that to select one aspect at the expense of others leads to gross distortion. Within one small social space we can find women who run projects, and women who only leave their homes to shop; women who have studied medicine in the USSR, and women who were taken out of school at 13 to marry; girls whose brothers encouraged them to join a resistance group, others whose brothers burned their clothes to prevent them from going out; girls who fight to defend the camp during sieges, others whose only concern is the latest fashions. A camp is a kaleidoscope: Depending on where one looks or to whom one listens, it is a crucible of change or a bastion of conservatism.

One tradition has presented the camps as places where certain kinds of "progress" have taken place. Evidence selected ranges from falling rates of infant mortality due to improved health services (most women give birth in hospitals nowadays, and midwives have been "upgraded"); rising educational levels, result of free schooling from 6 to 16; opportunities for skilled employment; later age at first marriage, and the dying out of *libani* (coercive) marriage; the break-up of the traditional patriarchal household; and the widespread involvement of women in the resistance movement. All this is true. But it is important to guard against two kinds of distortion: First, the extent of these changes should not be overestimated; second, they should not be seen as beginning with the uprooting of 1948. All the most outstanding characteristics of camp women, whether it is

their capacity for struggle, or for rebuilding their homes, or for making money stretch, grow directly out of their peasant past, and can only be understood with this time frame in mind.

Take education: It is true that there were very few schools for girls in Palestinian villages — only 46 by 1944/45, but the demand for them was building up. Girls' schools were established in the 1880s in urban centres, and the cities had a cultural influence over the countryside. Further, the leaders of the national movement attached importance to the education of women. And by the '40s, there were already women teachers ready to work in villages. Old women in camps often talk about their struggles to be allowed to attend school; hence the pressure they put on their daughters to take the chance of schooling. Many a girl who has succeeded in "completing" her education, i.e. reaching university, has done so because she was supported by an illiterate mother or grandmother.

In contrast to Palestinian villages, camps provided free schooling, with the result that, by 1979, overall literacy had dropped to 35 per cent. In addition, the proportion of girls in elementary classes was high (85 per cent in Lebanon in 1977/78). However behind these encouraging statistics we find several dark areas. Less than half the girls complete the whole UNRWA cycle to gain the *brevet* diploma that would open up for them some kind of vocational training, while the proportion that continue into secondary school is very low indeed. PLO census takers in 1978/79 found that 22 per cent of the female population aged above 10 had reached the

primary certificate, 8.5 per cent the intermediate certificate, 2.8 per cent the secondary certificate, while only 0.9 per cent had been to university. Perhaps the most startling discovery is the low number of women with any kind of vocational diploma: one cause for concern is residual illiteracy in the schoolage population; in Shatila 3.4 per cent of female illiterates were aged between 10 and 19.

This was the picture shortly before the 1982 war, when resistance scholarships were plentiful and incomes high. If statistics were available today, they would show even fewer girls going on to secondary school, and higher rates of drop-out all through. Lina, a Shatila girl aged 17, an excellent student who was aiming at university, was suddenly catapulted into marrying a young man with a job in the Gulf by parents who had had genuine ambitions for her, and had always proclaimed their intention of letting their daughters choose whom and when to marry. But times had changed, and they had eight other children to feed and educate. People say this is happening on a wide scale.

As to employment, anyone who visits the Beirut camps will be impressed by the visibility of women working in social institutions — around 70 per cent of Palestine Red Crescent workers are women. Moreover, today, women of camp background are often found in charge, responsible for a local centre or a section within an institution. Ten years ago, direction lay very clearly outside the camps, and there was a wider gap in qualifications and powers; whereas in Shatila today there are three or four women of whom the word "powerful" can legitimately be used, who control resources. But before extolling this as proof of "progress," we need to realise how contingent it is on the existence of jobs and resources. The number professionally employed in fact is very slight, and the possibilities for professional training available to the majority of girls, never extensive, are deeply threatened by present insecurity.

Second, it is only possible to represent the rather low employment rates of camp women as "progress" if we assume that they come out of a background of narrowly defined domesticity. But there is nothing really new about Palestinian women working. In Palestine the role of peasant women in agricultural

production was a strong one — they not only produced, but marketed their produce, and were used to handling money. They also possessed a range of artisanal skills other than the embroidery for which they are best known: Weaving, pottery, many kinds of food preservation, the making of domestic equipment, and parts of houses. They also managed large households that produced as well as consumed, a better basis than the nuclear family from which to launch into "social production." It is important to recall these historical facts because, on the one hand, camp conditions caused the loss rather than development of these capacities, and on the other because camp women still possess the qualities bred by their foremothers' productive/managerial roles: physical strength, mobility, resourcefulness, and manual dexterity. What such women can become is well illustrated by those who have risen from a modest educational base to senior positions in institutions such as the Kanafani Foundation and Najdeh. Both have made a special point of encouraging women from camp backgrounds to upgrade their qualifications.

But however exciting these manifestations are, they must be set against the stark fact of lack of training and employment openings. The provision of basic literacy to 80 per cent of girls in camps did not, even in good times, open up to them the possibility of skilled employment. This is clear from the low rate of camp women's participation in the labour force, 6.5 per cent according to the PLO census in 1979 (based on five camps), compared with 18 per cent for Lebanese women, and 11 per cent for Syrian women (1975 figures). The gate to all kinds of professional training (including nursing), is the *baccalaureat*, and between the *brevet*, when UNRWA schooling ends, and the *baccalaureat* stretch three to four years of expensive secondary school. True, a handful of camp girls were beginning to be admitted to UNRWA's vocational training centre at Silem (closed since 1983). True, resistance scholarships enabled another handful to reach university in Lebanon or abroad. But such chances were not available to the majority. For them the vocational training courses conducted in or near most camps were and are more relevant, requiring only *brevet* or basic literacy. But these courses

have been limited in type (mainly sewing and typing), as well as in level. Their diplomas were sufficient for jobs in resistance offices, but were not recognised by Lebanese employers. Though new vocational courses have been introduced since the 1982 war (including business and office skills, hairdressing, accountancy), very few graduates have found work. This is partly because of the closure of the Lebanese economy to Palestinians, partly because low income levels in camps do not allow the commercial development that generates jobs for Lebanese women.

Most Shatila girls will marry a shabb (shabby man) from this camp or another, whose chance of employment or migration is equally restricted. Keeping home in a camp means a daily struggle with dirt from dusty or muddy streets; fetching water from distant street taps; patching up thin walls and leaky roofs; washing clothes every other day for families of eight or more; baking bread in temperatures of 80°F; and coping with the many sicknesses that arise from leaking sewers, street dirt, protein-low diets and poor habitat. This is the daily life of camp housewives in normal times. But since mid-1985 there have been Amal attacks and sieges, leading to a degree of destruction and displacement that makes the hardships of post-82 invasion days like heaven — Middle East International, London.



A displaced family from Tyre in a basement of a Sidon building (UNRWA photo)

The true meaning of Lent

By Rev. Fr. Musa Adeli

IT is lenten period and Christians all over the world are observing this time in different ways and varying degrees. Lent used to be, what one might call, an imposed time of fasting and penance. There were many obligatory rituals to be performed by the people. Now the rules have been relaxed and the adult Christian is expected to make his own mature decisions concerning such things. A certain amount of mandatory instructions are still in force but the onus for most of the observances has shifted to the individual.

Fasting from food of course has always been a major aspect of any penitential season, but fasting from food need not always be related to spiritual values. We fast from food in order to save it for later; we fast in order to save money for ourselves; we fast from food in order to lose weight; we fast in order to win notice or praise from others. Fasting from food will have some spiritual effects provided our motives for doing so are not mundane. For example, what do I do with the money saved? Do I give it to the poor? What do I do with the food I did not eat today? Do I give that, or the equivalent to the poor? What do I do with the time I save in not cooking or eating? Do I use that time to perhaps visit the poor or those in hospital? Or do I use that time for good reading and prayer? Looking at these questions one can see there is more to fasting than merely abstaining from food. Motives are of the utmost importance.

These days with such a complex situation existing all over the world, where there is an economic crisis in almost every country, especially in the Third World, how should one really interpret this whole concept of fasting? In the face of human misery such as poverty, homelessness, unemployment and sickness often

caused by the sheer indifference and/or ill-will of others, what should be one's attitude? Isaiah, the great old prophet had many things to say, things which are by no means out of date in 1987. In chapter 58 he says: "You who oppress your workmen, quarrel and fight when you fast and strike the poor man, is this what you call fasting? The fasting that pleases the Lord is rather to break unjust fetters, to let the oppressed go free, to share your bread with the hungry and to clothe the naked poor, then when you call to the Lord he will listen to you."

One might very well ask why are there so many hungry people in the world, so many poorly housed and clothed and illiterate? Perhaps the main answer is the huge amount of funds spent on building huge arsenals. Some would say this is necessary in order to defend the people. The people? Who are the people to be defended? Are they those who are at present living under cardboard roofs and living a hand-to-mouth existence. If the truth is told no one, who champions defence-spending, is worried about those types of people. If at all they worry, it would be concerning their own property and power. The poor, as during the time of Isaiah are left to get on with it on their own.

Here in Jordan, what can one do to help the poor? There are poor in Jordan who need help. Fasting from alcohol, cigarettes, sweets, snacks, videos and the money saved could be used in helping a poor family. If one does not know of any poor families, it takes no effort to find out where they are! One could visit the poor patients in the hospitals; they could be given some gifts; they could be comforted in their moments of suffering. One could also pay visits to poor neighbours; poor people could be given lifts in one's car as an act of goodwill and charity.

JTV Channel 2 Preview

Sat. — March 28, 1987 8:30 You Again

8:30 Music Box

9:30 Dad's Army

10:20 Feature Film
Obsessive Love

Linda Forster is a simple employee in a tourism office. She is lovely and leading a life of dreams. She loves the star of a T.V. series (Glen) and imagines herself to be very close to him.

Sun. — March 29, 1987

8:30 Who's the Boss

9:10 Doc. — Gaza's Ghetto

This programme relates the tragedy of the Palestinians in the Gaza Strip by illustrating the history of a Palestinian family between 1948-1984, and the way the Arab homes and villages were destroyed and replaced by Jewish settlements.

10:20 Spearfield's Daughter

Cleo, in her capacity as the editor-in-chief of the newspaper, publishes new information about the gang, and the latter decides to assassinate her.

Mon. — March 30, 1987

9:10 Remington Steele

Tue. — March 31, 1987

8:30 The New Cycle

A review of the new cycle (beginning April 1) programmes.

9:00 Varieties

10:20 Feature Film

Romance On The Orient Express

Filmed in Venice, Paris and France, Romance On The Orient Express is the love story of the year, set aboard the world's most famous train. With an international cast and a lavish production the story is packed with passion and drama. Lovely blonde Cheryl Ladd stars as successful writer, Lily Parker, confronted on the famous train by Alex (Stuart Wilson), the handsome Englishman with whom she had a brief affair some years before. This is the emotional story of Lily's fight for her pride and future happiness.

This preview stops at Tuesday, March 31, because JTV's new cycle starts on Wednesday, April 1.

FAO encourages poor to raise rabbits for food

By Frances D'Emilio
The Associated Press

ROME — On the door of Werner Bessei's office at the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation is a photo of a fat white rabbit.

Working for the agency at its Rome headquarters, Bessei is leading FAO's efforts to introduce rabbits as a source of protein into the diets of poor Africans and Caribbean islanders by teaching animal husbandry.

Although a number of private and public agencies are at work on solving world hunger, Bessei believes rabbits could be one answer to the need for an economical source of protein.

The rabbit already has a history of filling empty tables in times of need. "After the war, it was the meat for the poor man in Europe," said Bessei, referring to the years after World War II when people raised rabbits in their backyards.

An FAO survey in 1981 of 64 developing countries showed that 70 per cent thought rabbit raising had potential as a food source in their countries and only 22 per cent thought local social customs would not favour it.

Following the survey, FAO began projects in several countries to teach local residents how to raise rabbits. FAO technicians went to work in the West African island nation of Sao Tome and Principe in Guinea-Bissau and in Jamaica.

In Zaire, Rwanda and the Dominican Republic the FAO worked with other agencies trying to get rabbit projects underway. "These people have hardly any meat to eat..." Bessei said. "In Zaire, they have vegetables, meal, sorghum, maybe some milk."

But protein levels in these diets are "so low that any improvement is welcome."

Project workers, when possible, build on existing community resources to get the project going, Bessei said.

Often, a villager who already has a rabbit is selected by FAO technicians to be taught more

about raising larger numbers of rabbits. That villager, in turn, teaches others.

Bessei said that smaller animals like guinea pigs, chickens and rabbits are a logical alternative to raising larger animals like sheep and cows since the smaller animals cost less to feed, take up less space and breed quickly. Rabbits produce litters of eight to 10 offspring.

All the rabbit-raising efforts would be of little use, however, if people refused to eat them. So, the FAO also distributes an English-language cookbook to Caribbean countries that contains recipes such as mustard rabbit and rabbit cabbage.

In some countries, rabbits are already the basis for common meals or even Haute cuisine. In Italy, *coniglio al boscaiuolo*, a dish of tender stewed rabbit meat with tomatoes and mushrooms, is a succulent specialty during winter months.

Skinned animals with heads still attached hang in butchershop windows with sides of beef and legs of lamb throughout Italy, Western Europe's largest importer of rabbits.

Bessei says that in the countries where rabbit-raising projects are underway, virtually no taboos exist against eating the animals. Some problems in the project already have been faced. Project workers in Rwanda, for example, found residents raising the animals for sale rather than food.

"In Rwanda, so many people sell rabbit meat for money to buy other things," Bessei said. "Cheaper food or maybe clothes for the children."

Bessei said another problem was government officials who were concerned that introduction of the rabbits to their nations not duplicate the 19th century experience of Australia, where rabbits had no natural predators and their numbers unchecked, destroyed thousands of acres of vegetation.

In response, Bessei says natural predators such as dogs exist in all the countries where the rabbit project is operating.

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British, Saudi ministers meet over arms sales row

LONDON (R) — British and Saudi Arabian ministers met Thursday during a state visit by King Fahd for talks expected to try to resolve difficulties over a \$5 billion (\$7.9 billion) arms contract, officials said.

The deal for Britain to supply Saudi Arabia with 132 warplanes, including 72 Tornados, was signed last year. It was Britain's largest defence contract.

Saudi Arabia was to pay partly in oil but has fallen behind in payments since oil prices fell from \$30 a barrel a year ago to \$18 now.

Saudi Oil Minister Hisham Nazer may ask British Energy Minister Peter Walker if methods of payment can be renegotiated, officials said.

Saudi Industry Minister Abdulaziz Al Zamil was expected to

ask British counterpart Paul Channon for Britain to provide Saudi Arabia with countertrade deals to offset a trade deficit with Britain which increased following the arms deal.

Britain exported \$1.5 billion (\$2.4 billion) worth of goods to Saudi Arabia last year while British imports from that country in the same period totalled \$436 million (\$693 million).

Saudi Arabia may buy \$1 billion (\$1.6 billion) worth of submarines from Britain if agreement on countertrade can be reached, officials said.

They said Nazer may repeat requests for Saudi Arabia for Britain to curb its production of North Sea oil to assist in stabilising the oil price. But Walker is expected to reiterate the government's policy of not interfering in oil companies' production.

Development bank meeting ends with issues unresolved

MIAMI (Agencies) — A three-day meeting of a major international lending institution has ended, leaving unresolved such key issues as Brazil's debt moratorium and a U.S. bid for virtual veto power over the bank's operations.

Some 3,000 people attended the annual meeting of the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB) in the hope that anger over Brazil's suspension of interest payments could be defused and a way found to meet U.S. demands for more control over the bank's purse strings.

They left disappointed on both counts, setting the stage for a showdown at a meeting of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in Washington on April 6.

Washington, the largest contributor to the bank, which has lent \$35 billion since its founding in 1959, holds a 34.5 per cent voting stake and wants increased powers over lending decisions.

U.S. officials, complaining the bank loans money too leniently, proposed lowering the veto power to 35 per cent, a move firmly resisted by Latin American countries, which together hold 54.2 per cent.

The contributors of the preponderance of the bank's useable resources should be able to assure their governments that their contributions are being used effectively," W. Allen Wallis, U.S. undersecretary of state for economic affairs, told the closing session Wednesday.

But the United States found itself in virtual isolation, with even Western allies arguing that the IADB should not be turned into a U.S. lending vehicle.

A 35 per cent veto, which could be sustained if just one other of the IADB's 12 executive directors voted with the United States, would "undermine the multilateral

spirit governing institutions of this type," said French treasury official Ariane Obolensky.

The United States has promised to back a \$22-billion replenishment of the bank's resources over the next three years but only if it receives an effective veto over lending policies.

The bank's lending actually declined slightly last year, even though U.S. Treasury Secretary James Baker had called for it to play a greater role in support of its Third World debt strategy.

A compromise was being explored, and officials expressed hope it would be reached at the IMF meeting next month.

Bankers said a new confrontation with Brazil could be shaping up about the same time, because the country will need to ask banks for an extension of \$9.5 billion in debt due April 15.

Peru, Mexico charge debt crisis result of unjust system

In Mexico City, President Alan Garcia of Peru and President Miguel De La Madrid of Mexico said Thursday that the Latin American foreign debt crisis stems from a unjust international economic system.

A joint communique issued at the conclusion of Garcia's three-day visit said the debt problem "calls for national decisions, international solutions in the long term and a political dialogue of debtors and creditors within effective co-responsibility."

The two presidents also said that "the independence and sovereignty of all our nations are at risk in Central America."

The joint presidential communique said "the burden of the foreign debt is one of the principal obstacles for the growth of the countries of Latin America."

Soviet economic growth doubled under Gorbachev, says U.S. report

WASHINGTON (R) — The Soviet economy has grown at twice the average rate of the previous 10 years under new leader Mikhail Gorbachev, but his goals may be too ambitious, according to a report from U.S. intelligence agencies.

The report was prepared jointly by the Central Intelligence Agency and the Defence Intelligence Agency for the Congressional Joint Economic Committee, which released it Friday.

It said the Soviet economy grew 4.2 per cent in 1986, Gorbachev's first full year in power, twice the average annual growth over the previous decade.

Gorbachev's policies to improve worker attitudes, remove incompetent officials, reduce corruption and alcoholism and modernise the country's industrial equipment accounted for some of the gains, the report said.

"Although many of the specific policies Gorbachev has adopted are not new, the intensity Gorbachev has brought to his efforts and his apparent commitment to finding long-term solutions are attributes that his immediate predecessors lacked. Nonetheless, Gorbachev's programme appears too ambitious on a number of counts," the report said.

Earlier this week, two U.S.

experts on the Soviet Union said Gorbachev was likely to be ousted in three to four years if he continues his reform policies.

"I don't think he can last four years," Marshall Goldman of Harvard University told a congressional hearing. "He's moving so fast, he's stepping on so many toes."

A similar comment came from Peter Reddaway of the Smithsonian Institution's Kennan Institute for Advanced Russian Studies.

The U.S. intelligence report said meeting targets for commodity output would require unrealistic gains in Soviet productivity, and industrial output targets appear too high to allow time to install more advanced equipment.

None of Gorbachev's proposals would change the system of economic incentives that has discouraged innovation and technological change, it added.

"The first significant resistance to specific policies, although not overall goals, surfaced (in 1986) in both the massive government and party bureaucracy, particularly among enterprise managers who complained that they were being asked to carry out conflicting goals — such as to raise quality standards and output

targets simultaneously," the report said.

It predicted annual growth of two to three per cent in the Soviet economy over the next several years. It said the Soviet Union trailed the United States by seven to 12 years in advanced manufacturing technologies, such as computers and microprocessors.

Soviet firm goes bankrupt for first time

A Leningrad building enterprise has been declared bankrupt and disbanded, the first time this has happened in the Soviet Union, TASS news agency said Thursday.

TASS said it was an example of how Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and his team are emphasising profit and efficiency in their bid to rejuvenate the Soviet economy.

The Leningrad construction trust, with 2,000 employees, was wound up because it often fell behind schedule in operations, overran cost limits and produced low-quality work.

"Even older people cannot recall any such bankruptcies occurring in the Soviet Union," TASS said.

EC commissioner ends talks on customs union with Cyprus, relief to Lebanon

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Economic Community (EC) Commissioner Claude Cheysson left for Brussels Friday after saying it was important that negotiations for a proposed customs union between Cyprus and the EC end quickly.

Cheysson, responsible for EC Mediterranean relations, had talks with President Spyros Kyprianou and Foreign Minister George Iacovou. He did not say when negotiations would be concluded.

"I think it is important, I would even say imperative, that we should finish the negotiations (for a customs union) as soon as possible," Cheysson declared.

He was talking to newsmen at the presidential palace after a 45-minute meeting with President Kyprianou on Thursday.

Cheysson "was driven" to the palace direct from Larnaca Airport on arrival from Beirut, where he had talks with Lebanese leaders.

The result of the negotiations with Cyprus would be that the east Mediterranean island will be "the only country with which we will have entered into a special relationship, I mean a customs union that does not exist with anyone else," Cheysson added.

"I think it very proper this agreement should exist with Cyprus. We must be able to finish the negotiations soon on political grounds," he said.

Cheysson did not elaborate. But his reference to "political grounds" was seen locally as a reference to the unofficial partition of the island resulting from the Turkish invasion and occupa-

tion of the northern part of the island in 1974.

There is a prevalent feeling in Cyprus that the customs union with the EC would eventually lead to full membership and thus facilitate the island's reunification.

Cheysson said the negotiations were entering their final stage, but he could not say when they would conclude.

Meetings in Lebanon

In Beirut, Cheysson met with Lebanese leaders Thursday on aid to war-torn Lebanon. Cheysson flew into Christian east Beirut on Thursday morning.

During his stay in Lebanon, Cheysson met twice with President Amin Gemayel at the presidential palace in suburban Baabda.

Cheysson, a former French foreign minister, crossed the five-kilometre (three-mile) dividing green line and discussed aid to Lebanon with Prime Minister Rashid Karami after ending the first round of talks with Gemayel.

"We can help a country to progress... naturally in exceptional circumstances we provide exceptional aid," Cheysson told reporters after a one-hour meeting with Karami at his office in Muslim west Beirut.

Cheysson was immediately driven back to Baabda across the demarcation line, where he held a second round of talks with the Christian president on the same subject.

Cheysson said his visit to Lebanon "has been decided since President Gemayel visited the EC

headquarters in Brussels" Feb. 13.

He said the 12-nation EC will provide Lebanon with economic aid through United Nations agencies and the International Committee of the Red Cross. He did not elaborate on this remark.

Gemayel had discussed with EC officials in Brussels on economic, social and educational aid to Lebanon which has been plagued by a civil strife since 1975.

The civil war, which goes into its 12th year April 15, has claimed more than 100,000 lives and devastated the nation's economy, once one of the most flourishing in the Middle East.

Cheysson told reporters the EC will "continue to extend aid to Palestinian camps in Lebanon."

Palestinian refugee camps in Beirut and South Lebanon have been besieged by Shi'ite Muslim militiamen of Justice Minister Nabih Berri's Amal movement since Nov. 24.

The Palestinians were reported to have eaten dogs, rats and cats at south Beirut's bomb-ravaged refugee camp of Bourj Al Barajneh before the United Nations Relief and Works Agency succeeded in sending limited quantities of food to the shantytown.

EC foreign ministers on Feb. 16 deplored the siege of Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon, one week after the community's executive commission pledged one million European Currency Units (\$1.13 million) in emergency aid for the refugees.

France and Italy sent shiploads of supplies to the needy refugees.

U.S. council recommends trade sanctions for Japanese breaches

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan's Economic Policy Council has recommended retaliatory trade sanctions against Japan for violating a 1986 bilateral agreement to halt Japanese dumping of microchips in the United States and Asia, according to U.S. industry sources.

The White House made no comment on a New York Times story saying Reagan would announce action against Japan on the tiny electronic memory chips — known as semiconductors — used in computers, advanced weaponry and consumer products.

In Tokyo, Chief Cabinet Secretary Masaharu Gotoda said Friday Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone would visit the United States for a week from April 29, during which he would meet Reagan.

Japanese government sources said Nakasone would try to resolve the growing bilateral trade friction and discuss preparations for a summit in Venice in June of major non-Communist industrial-

ised nations.

The U.S. industry sources said Thursday the Economic Policy Council had recommended sanctions against Japan under heavy pressure from U.S. semiconductor makers and senators, but they would not say what specific action would be taken.

U.S. officials said the most likely sanctions would be duties on Japanese goods that use semiconductors, such as television receivers, video cassette recorders and computers.

Such retaliatory action would be a major embarrassment in U.S.-Japanese relations. But Japanese semiconductors have become a flashpoint in worsening trade tensions between the two countries, rooted in Japan's huge trade surplus.

Britain threatens sanctions against Japan

In London Thursday, British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, speaking against a background of growing British anger and calls on the government to revoke licences of Japanese financial institutions operating in London, issued a thinly veiled threat of trade sanctions against Japan unless it opened up its domestic markets.

Thatcher told parliament she regarded an application by the British electronics company Cable and Wireless to invest in a proposed new Japanese telecommunications company as a test case of how free the Japanese market really was.

A junior British trade minister, Alan Clark, said in a radio interview in London that some form of trade sanctions by the whole of the European Community against Japan was inevitable unless Tokyo took real steps to open up its markets.

GATT questions U.S. economic policy, warns of danger from budget deficits

GENEVA (R) — The world trade body GATT described Washington's obsession with its huge foreign trade deficit as misplaced, saying the real problem lay in the big U.S. federal budget deficit.

By concentrating on its record \$169.8 billion trade deficit last year, Washington was only fuelling protectionist pressure which threatened the world trading system, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade said in its annual report released Friday.

The fundamental problem — the U.S. federal budget deficit — was being largely ignored, and could only be cured by cutting government spending or encouraging a higher rate of personal savings to finance the debt, it said.

The GATT report also predicted overall world trade would grow by just 2.5 per cent in 1987 — a full percentage lower than in each of the previous two years.

World trade in manufactures grew by only three per cent in 1986, about half of the rate of the previous year. Trade in agricultural goods expanded by just one per cent, continuing a stagnant pattern in that sector this decade, GATT said.

Developing countries' exports declined significantly, while their imports increased moderately, although full statistics were not yet available, GATT said.

The combined export earnings of 16 major indebted nations were sharply lower, and only five of them — Chile, Colombia, Philippines, South Korea, and Thailand — had higher exports.

GATT experts urged Washington to resist protectionist steps and instead seek macroeconomic

changes to reduce the balance of payments deficit — higher private savings, lower investment and a smaller federal budget deficit.

"An increase in U.S. trade barriers would result in little or no reduction in the current account deficit. It would, however, increase inflation and reduce world trade."

"The basic cause — some combination of insufficient domestic savings and an excessive budget deficit — would remain," the report of the 92-nation, Geneva-based body said.

The warning came amid growing pressure on the U.S. Congress to block foreign imports in the wake of last year's huge trade and current account deficits last year.

GATT economists identified four major factors expected to slow the expansion of trade in 1987.

These were:

— Slower growth forecasts in Japan and some West European states as they adjust production and workforces to a low dollar

— Risk of higher U.S. inflation

— Concerns over Third World debt management, and

— Looming tit-for-tat protectionism.

The report also said imbalances in the current accounts of the world's three largest trading nations — Japan, West Germany and the United States — had increased in 1986.

The most likely explanation was that exchange rate changes were not backed-up by the needed changes in the underlying macroeconomic policies, it added.

"Thus the prediction that these imbalances would be reduced as a result of major realignment of exchange rates was not borne out last year," the report said.

Japan overtakes U.S. as most creditworthy country

NEW YORK (AP) — The United States, long the no. 1 one favourite of international bankers, is now number four behind Japan, West Germany and Switzerland among the world's most creditworthy nations, an American business magazine says.

A survey of about 100 international banks in the March issue of Institutional Investor Magazine put Japan in top spot with 96 out of a possible 100 points. West Germany and Switzerland both scored 94.2, and the United States 94.1.

The magazine makes the survey every six months, asking international bankers to rate the creditworthiness of 109 nations on a scale of 1 to 100.

At the bottom of the list are North Korea with a 4.6 rating and Nicaragua, 5.1.

The higher a nation's rating, the easier it is to borrow from the banks, usually at more favourable terms and interest rates.

In last September's survey, Japan displaced the United States in top spot for the first time since the two-yearly survey started seven years ago.

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Share prices appeared to be heading for record closing levels after further consideration of the latest opinion poll and the implications of Thursday's better than expected U.K. February trade figures, dealers said.

However, currency considerations reflected in an easier government bond market and a mixed opening on Wall Street took the edge off a mid-morning push towards record territory. At 1530 GMT the FTSE 100 was 15.1 up at 2,052.9, just 3.3 points short of its record closing of 2,056.2 achieved on March 24.

Earlier the market had been unsettled by news Fisons plans to raise £110 million through an international share placing.

The latest opinion poll published in the Daily Telegraph newspaper unsettled the market with its finding that the centrist Liberal-SDP alliance party had moved ahead of the main opposition Labour Party, apparently pointing to a hung parliament and upsetting the prospect of an early election.

A more considered view on the poll revealed the ruling Conservative Party would retain a working majority and helped prices move ahead, dealers said.

BP's offer on Thursday for the remaining 45 per cent of Standard Oil it does not own was further viewed as a healthy endorsement of the latest confederation of British and industry survey.

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets on Friday.

One sterling	1.6053/63	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.3061/66	Canadian dollar
	1.8227/37	West German marks
	2.0580/90	Dutch guilders
	1.5195/5205	Swiss francs
	37.72/75	Belgian francs
	6.0625/75	French francs
	1298/1302	Italian lire
	147.95/148.05	Japanese yen
	6.3600/50	Swedish crowns
	6.8600/50	Norwegian crowns
	6.8650/8700	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	415.60/416.10	U.S. dollars

Horoscope and Crosswords not received

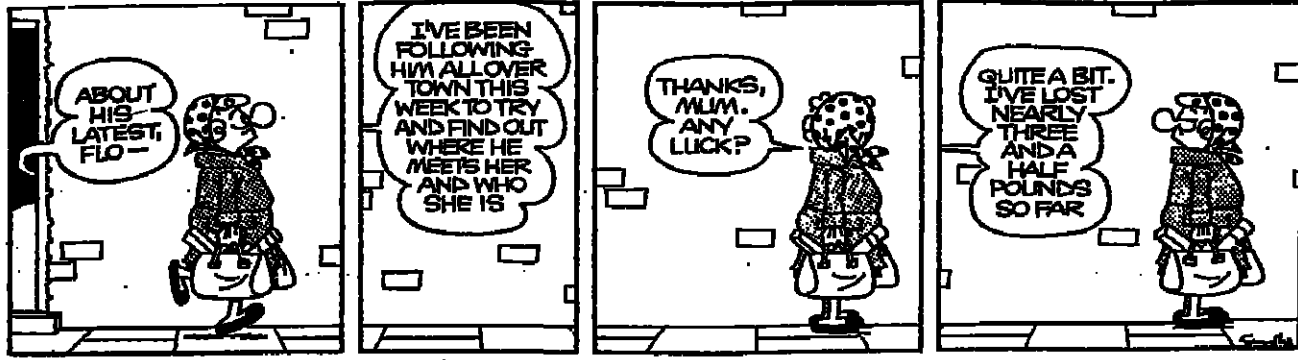
Peanuts



Mutt n' Jeff



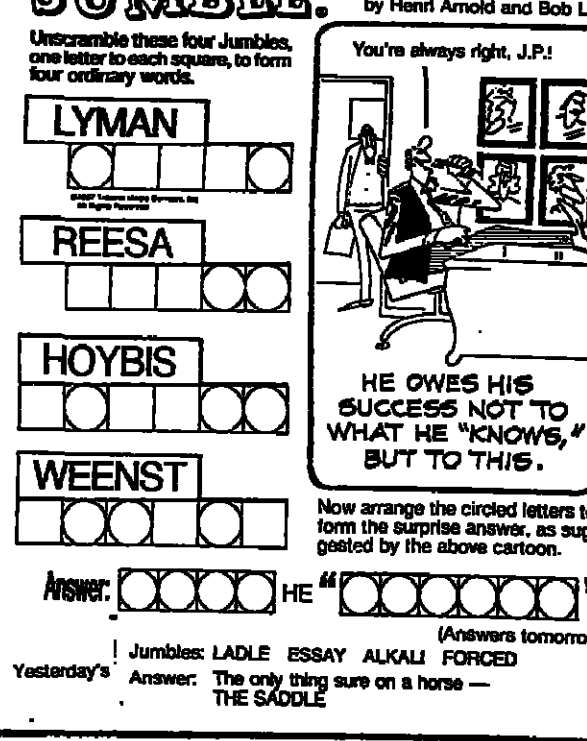
Andy Capp



THE BETTER HALF.



JUMBLE.



Macao residents react favourably to China-Portugal agreement

MACAO (AP) — Residents crowded around television sets and read special newspaper editions to learn details of the agreement announced Thursday that will return this tiny Portuguese enclave to Chinese rule.

Many of Macao's 450,000 residents watched the 11 a.m. (0300 GMT) live broadcast of the Peking ceremony in which Portuguese and Chinese officials initialled the agreement that will make Macao a special administrative region of China on Dec. 20, 1999. Applause stores were crowded with people watching televisions tuned to the ceremony.

In general, residents reacted favourably to the agreement. Two of Macao's six Chinese-language newspapers ran afternoon extras with the agreement's full text. The 50,000 special edi-

tions of the *Va Kio* paper included both the Chinese and Portuguese texts.

The agreement is based on a policy of "one country, two systems." Macao's people are to retain their basic freedoms and economic system for 50 years after Portuguese administration ends in this 16 square-kilometre territory on the South China coast.

Although there was no mention of gambling, a major source of tax revenue for Macao, the joint declaration implied that Peking will not interfere with the operation of casinos.

At Macao's casinos, gamblers had other matters on their minds and did not want to discuss the accord.

"Don't bother me," barked one man as he laid down a bet at a roulette wheel in the Casino Lisboa.

The two sides settled a dispute concerning approximately 80,000 Chinese in Macao eligible for Portuguese citizenship by agreeing any Macao citizen who holds a Portuguese passport on Dec. 20, 1999.

The settlement of the nationality question was a major reason some people found the agreement acceptable.

"The agreement is satisfactory," said Carlo Assumpcao, chairman of the Legislative Assembly and a leader of the Macanese community, or people of Portuguese heritage born in the territory.

It takes into account ... the aspirations and the needs of Macao population," he said.

Assembly member Alexander Ho said the territory's Chinese, Portuguese and Macanese "should have more dialogue to prevent any misunderstanding and to build up a bright future for Macao."

Mr. Ho has urged a greater effort by the government to bring about "localisation," or the placement of Chinese in top government positions, which now are dominated by Portuguese and Macanese.

Last week, the government sent 20 local Chinese to Lisbon for a year's training in Portuguese and civil administration as part of a new programme to meet such demands.

Macao has been a Portuguese enclave since 1557, but 97 per cent of its people are Chinese.

Remains of U.S. jet crew recovered from wreckage

MARCH AIR FORCE BASE, California (R) — The remains of entertainer Dean Martin's eldest son and another Air National Guard officer were removed from the charred wreckage of their Phantom jet fighter.

Captain Dean Paul Martin, 35, an actor who piloted the jet, and Captain Ramon Ortiz, 39, a Las Vegas banker, were killed on impact last Saturday when their F-4C Phantom slammed into the

side of a mountain. The oldest of Dean Martin's three children by a former wife, Jeanne, Dean Paul Martin had been a professional tennis player, a pilot, a television actor and a musician.

There was no comment from Martin's father, the 69-year-old singer and actor, who received word of the grim discovery at his Beverly Hills home, according to publicist Warren Cowan.

More spy charges brought against U.S. Marine guard

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Marine Corps has brought additional charges against the first of two Marine security guards arrested on suspicion of spying while working at the U.S. embassy in Moscow. Defense Department sources have said.

The sources, who agreed to discuss the matter only if not named, said the decision to add five additional charges to the 19 counts already pending against

Sgt. Clayton J. Lonetree had been prompted by the recent arrest of another guard and former Lonetree colleague, Cpl. Arnold Bracy.

The sources declined to discuss the specific allegations underlying the new charges. But they said the charges included another count of espionage; and two counts of "espionage-related" general misconduct charges.

Former U.S. secretary pleads guilty to tax evasion

NEW YORK (R) — Former U.S. Treasury Secretary Robert Anderson, whom Dwight Eisenhower once said deserved to be president, has pleaded guilty to income tax evasion charges and illegally running an offshore bank.

Mr. Anderson, declaring that he was "deeply regretful," admit-

ted to evading taxes on \$127,500 of undeclared income.

Much of the money was paid to him for lobbying for controversial South Korean Evangelist Sun Myung Moon's Unification Church.

The 71-year-old Anderson was President Eisenhower's treasury secretary from 1957 to 1961.

Thatcher visits Moscow today

LONDON (R) — British Conservative Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher flies to Moscow on Saturday with the insult fired at her 11 years ago in the official Soviet media — "the iron lady" — now virtually a hallowed title.

Britain's first woman prime minister has made toughness her hallmark. Her supporters say she has lived up to, benefited from and even sharpened the iron-clad image with which she was branded by the Soviet armed forces newspaper *Krasnaya Zvezda*.

As she enters her ninth year in office on May 4 and prepares for elections she hopes will secure a record third consecutive term, Mrs. Thatcher has acquired a stature at home and abroad that puts her virtually in a league of her own.

She has been in power longer than any other elected Western government leader and has ruled Britain without a break for longer than any Conservative prime minister since the Earl of Liverpool notched up just under 15 years from 1812 to 1827.

Missile deal hinges on Shultz-Shevardnadze talks

GENEVA (Agencies) — U.S. and Soviet arms negotiators have failed to resolve problems blocking a deal to slash medium-range nuclear missile arsenals, leaving tough bargaining ahead for their foreign ministers at next month's Moscow meeting.

"Difficult issues remain before us," the senior American negotiator on medium-range missiles, Maynard Giltman, said after a special session of talks ended on Thursday. "Substantive issues need to be resolved."

Soviet negotiator Alexei Obukhov blamed the slow pace on "efforts by the U.S. side to raise new problems, to expand the scope of issues under discussion."

The superpowers have agreed to a rough outline to scrap medium-range forces in Europe — 270 triple-warhead Soviet SS-20S and 316 single-warhead American Pershing-2 and cruise missiles.

They would limit such weapons

to 100 warheads held on their national territory, with the 33 Soviet missiles confined to the Asian region of the country.

But what appeared to be an arms control breakthrough when both sides accepted the basic elements of a pact earlier this month has dissolved into a dispute over Soviet superiority in shorter-range missiles in Europe.

Mr. Giltman told reporters the United States would insist that limits on the shorter-range missiles be "an integral part" of a medium-range treaty.

The United States wants Moscow to freeze such missiles at present levels, estimated by Washington at more than 150, and for the Americans to have the right to match this figure.

In Moscow, the chief of the Foreign Ministry's disarmament department, Viktor Karpov, accused the United States of raising artificial obstacles and "backtracking" on medium-range forces.

Former Reagan aide pleads innocent to perjury charges

WASHINGTON (R) — Michael Deaver, a former White House aide and long-time confidant of President Reagan, has pleaded innocent to criminal charges that he lied under oath about his Washington lobbying affairs.

Mr. Deaver, who resigned as deputy White House chief of staff in May 1985 to open a public relations business, was indicted last week on five counts of perjury for testimony he gave to the U.S. Congress and a grand jury about his contacts as a lobbyist with top government officials.

"I am not guilty, your honor," Mr. Deaver said after he was handed a copy of the indictment.

Mr. Deaver, who faces a maximum penalty of 25 years in prison if convicted, entered the innocent plea at a brief arraignment. He was ordered released without bail and without any restrictions. U.S. district Judge Thomas

Jackson scheduled a jury trial in the case for June 8. Outside the courthouse Mr. Deaver, flanked by his lawyers, brushed past a crowd of reporters saying: "I don't have any comment."

His lawyers said they would file motions seeking to dismiss the indictment by renewing their arguments that the court-appointed special prosecutor who investigated Mr. Deaver and sought the indictment was unconstitutional.

Mr. Deaver at first welcomed the probe but later tried to block his indictment by challenging the constitutionality of the law under which the special prosecutor, Whitney Seymour, was appointed.

Seymour's 10-month investigation centred on charges that Mr. Deaver violated conflict-of-interest laws by using his ties to the White House to promote his lobbying business.

Bishop bans bodies of IRA men from churches

BELFAST (R) — A Catholic bishop in Northern Ireland has banned the bodies of dead Irish Republican Army (IRA) guerrillas from churches in his diocese and denounced members of the banned organisation as murderers and terrorists.

The unprecedented ban was announced by Dr. Edward Daly, Bishop of Londonderry, 112 kilometres north of Belfast,

where masked men fired a volley of shots over the coffin of IRA man Gerard Logue in a churchyard last Tuesday.

The bishop said: "The IRA are not freedom fighters but unprincipled terrorists waging a campaign for power through murder and intimidation."

Logue was accidentally shot by men from the IRA, fighting to end British rule in Northern Ireland.

Koryagin family reportedly allowed to apply for emigration

FRANKFURT, West Germany (AP) — Soviet dissident Anatoly Koryagin has been told that he and his family should apply for permission to emigrate, a Frankfurt-based human-rights group says.

At the same time, the Soviets have released Koryagin's teenage son from a labour camp, the International Association for Human Rights said Thursday.

There was no Soviet confirmation of the report.

The elder Koryagin, one of the Soviet Union's best-known dissidents, released from prison last month after serving five years of a 12-year term for accusing authorities of sending sane dissidents to psychiatric hospitals.

The International Association for Human Rights said it reached Koryagin by telephone in Kharkov on Thursday and was told

that his 19-year-old son, Ivan, arrived home in the Ukrainian city the day before.

Ivan Koryagin had been serving a three-year term at the Balakleya Labour camp, 30 kilometres from Kharkov, after being convicted of hooliganism in 1985. The charges stemmed from a brawl that dissident sources say was provoked by plainclothes security agents.

"Ivan Koryagin is not a dissident in the traditional sense, but he got in trouble because he strongly defended his father in school and elsewhere, and he was physically assaulted for that," said Ivan Aguzov, a spokesman for the International Association for Human Rights, a private monitoring group.

He quoted the elder Koryagin as saying his son was told he was released because of "good work performance."

Salvaging of capsized ferry moves forward

ZEEBRUGGE, Belgium (AP) — Preparations to right a capsized British ferry off the North Sea port of Zeebrugge moved forward as salvagers took advantage of calm, sunny weather, officials said.

"Salvagers are making good time. They are ahead of schedule," said Richard Mills, a spokesman for Townsend Thoresen, owner of the 7,951-tonne *Herald of Free Enterprise*. The vessel capsized on March 6 with 543 people aboard.

In Rotterdam, an official of the Dutch Salvage firm Smit Tak said, "If the weather cooperates we expect to right the vessel sometime next week." The official, Gerrit Van Wijk, said the righting could come as early as Tuesday.

The ferry capsized after leaving

for Dover, England, on the evening of March 6.

In all, 409 people survived and 60 have been confirmed dead. At least 74 bodies are believed to be still inside the half-submerged ferry which lies 1,000 metres outside the port in about 10 metres of water.

Mills said workers have welded a 50-metre cantilever brace to the ship's exposed starboard side and laid 10 anchors to keep the ferry in place during the righting.

The cantilever brace must keep the cables with which two pontoons will raise the ferry, from damaging the hull.

The pontoons will raise the ferry by 32 cables. On Thursday, Mills said, salvagers were installing the second set of four pulling cables.

Former UNICEF head dies

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Henry Labouisse, who helped to set up the Marshall Plan in Europe and was the head of UNICEF when the agency received a Nobel Prize, died Wednesday night in a New York hospital. UNICEF has announced.

He was 83 years old and had been suffering from cancer for some time.

Born in New Orleans, Mr. Labouisse was named chief of the Marshall Plan in Paris in 1953 and a year later took over as director of the U.N. Relief Agency for Palestine Refugees, a post he held until 1958.

Salvadorean couple free school hostages, surrender

SAN SALVADOR (R) — A couple who held almost 1,000 children and teachers hostage in a San Salvador school took part in a leftist guerrilla raid a few days earlier, the government has said.

The rifles used in the hostage drama were stolen in an attack on the town of San Marcos, just outside San Salvador, on Monday, Foreign Minister Ricardo Acevedo Peralta said.

He said the incident at the school was a terrorist act which showed the desperation of the rebels.

The Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN), the main guerrilla group in El Salvador, denied any involvement in the hostage taking, although it has pledged to step up actions in San Salvador this year.

Mr. Acevedo told journalists

the G-3 rifles used in the incident had been seized by guerrillas who clashed with civil defence militiamen in San Marcos. Two militiamen were killed in the fighting.

Mr. Acevedo said the rifles, and FMLN pamphlets found near the school, proved the hostage incident was carried out by the guerrillas.

"The FMLN has shown its frustration at its inability to achieve its object of seizing power," he said.

In Wednesday's drama, an army deserter and a woman burst into a school in the poor San Jacinto district and held the 947 and 27 teachers hostage for several hours.

Some of the children escaped through a window and the others were released before the couple surrendered.

Rocket failure deals new blow to U.S. space agency

CAPE CANAVERAL (R) — The U.S. space agency NASA, struggling to recover from last year's Challenger disaster and a string of rocket accidents, was dealt another stunning blow by Thursday's failure of an Atlas-Centaur rocket.

"Just when you thought it was safe to go back into space again, NASA has been hit with another round of problems," said John Pike, director of space policy for the Federation of American Scientists in Washington.

The unmanned \$78-million rocket, carrying an \$83-million military communications satellite, was destroyed by safety officers less than a minute after liftoff

Thursday when it veered out of control and threatened populated coastal areas, space agency officials said.

The two-tonne military satellite, designed to provide communications between the president and field commanders, ships and planes, was lost in the accident.

John Gibb, project director for the Atlas-Centaur, told a news conference that a lightning strike was a "possible cause" of the failure, which occurred when the rocket roared through a thick canopy of rain cloud blanketing the launch pad at Cape Canaveral.

Father says 'house of horrors' suspect deserves to die

PHILADELPHIA (R) — The father of an accused sex killer alleged to have raped and tortured six women has said his son deserved to hang and he would hold the rope.

Gary Heidnik, 42, was held without bail on charges of rape, kidnapping and murder after police found three semi-clad women chained in the basement of his Philadelphia home and human body parts in plastic packages in the refrigerator.

His father, Michael Heidnik of Eastlake, Ohio, said in a television interview that he had been estranged from his son for 26 years.

The elder Heidnik, a former Cleveland city councillor, said: "They can do what they please with him and I hope they hang him and I'll hold the rope."

Earlier the elder Heidnik said in an interview published in early editions of Friday's *Cleveland Plain Dealer* newspaper: "I don't want anything to do with him. Anybody who did something like that doesn't deserve to live."

The elder Heidnik, a 74-year-old retired machinist, said his son had always been a loner and had dropped out of high school due to low grades.

Prosecutors are seeking the

death penalty for Heidnik. A second Philadelphia man, Cyril Brown, 31, was arrested and charged with murder, rape, kidnapping and conspiracy in the same case Wednesday after he went to police headquarters with his lawyer and made a statement.

It was not immediately clear if prosecutors are asking for the death penalty in his case.

One survivor, a 26-year-old woman who managed to break away to alert police, said she and the others were chained, beaten, sexually assaulted daily and kept in a state of semi-starvation.

Officers found three women chained to pipes in the basement when they entered the house on Wednesday.

One of the survivors told police that Heidnik boasted of having run parts of a corpse through a food processor and mixing it with dog food, which he fed her and the others.

Philadelphia district Attorney Ron Castille said at a news conference Thursday that the only evidence for some of the more sensational aspects of the case, including the accusation of cannibalism, were statements from the four survivors.

He called those reports unsubstantiated, but did not flatly deny them.

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First Miss Egypt crowned

CAIRO (R) — The first Miss Egypt was crowned early Friday in a ballroom swarming with plainclothes security police worried about demonstrations against the contest. "Hit the catwalk if you hear a bang," the head of security at the hotel hosting the event told the 11 finalists before the show. "Do not panic, the room is full of security officers..." The first Miss Egypt, chosen by an all-male panel of judges, was Hoda Abboud, a 24-year-old interior decorator and trainee ballet teacher from the Mediterranean city of Alexandria. Abboud will be the first Egyptian to compete in the Miss Universe beauty pageant, an annual event organised by American sponsors. This year's final will be held in Singapore in May. Lebanon is the only other Arab country ever to have participated.

Evangelists try to end 'holy war'

FORT MILL (R) — America's television Evangelists tried to end their embarrassing war of words, warning that satan alone would profit from the nationwide welter of charges involving sex, money and power. "Reconciliation, forgiveness and renewal" will come out of this, said Pat Robertson, a presidential aspirant attempting to cut off the blitz of name-calling among his fellow TV preachers. The Reverend Jerry Falwell said that Jimmy Swaggart, the Evangelist who played a key role in the battle, "has no interest in maintaining any kind of controversy. He assures me it is over. Our cause is too precious to be the subject of bickering." Swaggart said, "We're not going to permit that to happen. We are determined that satan will not have a field day." Falwell took over the PTL ministry here from James Bakker after Bakker quit last week following charges that he paid \$115,000 to hush up an extramarital affair.

Elton John celebrates 40th birthday

LONDON (AP) — Pop singer Elton John celebrated his 40th birthday with a crowd of other celebrities at a lavish party. The party was held at the home of John's manager John Reid in Rickmansworth, 24 kilometres north west of London. The guest list included Prince Andrew and his wife, the former Sarah Ferguson. Reporters gathered at the gates did not see them enter, however. Security guards with dogs patrolled outside the mansion as celebrities arrived in a stream of chauffeur-driven limousines. John, in a white Rolls Royce, was one of the first to arrive, closely followed by rock stars Phil Collins, Eric Clapton, and Pete Townsend. Other guests included ex-Beatles George Harrison and Ringo Starr; veteran actor Sir John Mills and his wife; actress Britt Ekland and her husband, Slim Jim McDonnell; producer John Mansfield; film directors Michael Winner and Ken Russell; pop impresario Harvey Goldsmith; and actress Faye Dunaway and her husband, Terry O'Neill, a high-society photographer who is a close friend of John.

Dutch family, friends charged with 610 crimes

TILBURG, Netherlands (AP) — A Dutch family and some of their friends spawned a petty crime wave by committing 610 thefts and robberies in just over seven months, according to police. Members of the gang have been arrested for 87 incidents of shoplifting, 57 thefts from parked cars, 38 burglaries and six robberies, said Harry Van Raak, police spokesman for the southern town of Tilburg. The gang allegedly spent all 500,000 guilders (\$250,000) worth of the money and property they stole on food, drink and gambling. Van Raak told the Associated Press. A 19-year-old was being held in custody, Van Raak said, adding that his mother, father and five other children were released pending a vast array of charges, along with seven relatives and friends. None of the suspects were publicly identified, in line with Dutch police practice. Police first found clues of the family crime wave in January with the arrest of the teen-ager for robbing a truck driver, Van Raak said.

Abortion pill developed

STOCKHOLM, Sweden (AP) — Women will be able to abort pregnancies with pills within two or three years, researchers who are helping to develop the drug said Thursday. Professor Marc Bygdemann, at Stockholm's Karolinska Hospital, said he had tested the drug on 600 pregnant women in Sweden, Italy, China, India, Hungary and other countries in cooperation with the World Health Organisation (WHO). "Ninety-five per cent of the tests were successful," he told the Associated Press. In the other 5 per cent of the cases, the fetuses were surgically aborted for fear that they could develop deformities as a result of the medication. Bygdemann, Sweden's most prominent gynaecology researcher, said he was using a combination of drugs administered over three days, beginning within the first three weeks after missing a menstrual period. He said the abortion-inducing medication was developed from an anti-hormone called anti-progesterone developed by Etienne Baulieu of the University of Paris Sud.

World walker nears home

NEW HOPE, Ohio (AP) — The American flag on Steven Newman's backpack and his shirt collar are frayed, as is his view of America, but his hope for the future gleamed from a walk around the world remains intact. Newman, 32, walked back into Ohio on Wednesday, on the way to an April 1 homecoming in Bethel, near Cincinnati, exactly four years after he left. New Hope was appropriate for a rest because "one of the things I came back with is hope for the future based on the goodness I found," Newman said. He said families around the world usually shared their homes and food with him. "The thing I've learned is that love and family are most important. I'm always thinking of getting back home and giving mom a hug and a nice juicy kiss," he said.

World's first hashish museum to be opened

AMSTERDAM (R) — The world's first hashish museum opens next week in Amsterdam, but visitors can only look, not sample. The displays. Samples of marijuana and hashish on exhibit will be safely sealed in glass cases and as a further precaution, police have chemically treated the drugs to make them unfit for consumption. Police said they would keep a wary eye on the museum to ensure soft drugs were not encouraged. But visitors craving samples of their own can make their way to a coffeeshop next door where hashish and marijuana are legally sold. The museum, the idea of a few owners of hashish coffeeshops in Amsterdam, traces the history of hashish consumption in Amsterdam and also displays memorabilia of the city's hippie culture.

Boy George has no AIDS

LONDON (AP) — Pop singer Boy George said he has undergone three tests for the deadly disease AIDS in the past year, and all of them turned out negative. The 25-year-old singer, who has bounced back into the British pop charts after a two-year battle with heroin addiction, said his last test for AIDS was two weeks ago. "It is not because I am promiscuous but because I think it is a worry to everyone," he said in an interview with Music Box, a Europe-wide satellite television programme. "It is just frightening." The tests, in which blood is examined for antibodies to acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS), "have all been okay, so I am quite pleased with myself," he said. "You cannot be too careful."

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARAF
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TOO LATE THE SIGNAL

North-South vulnerable. South deals.		to clubs, leading the king from hand. Since he did not want to promote the queen of clubs to an entry, West was forced to hold up, and he did so again when declarer continued with a club to the queen. A successful heart finesse reduced the hand to this interesting position:	
NORTH ♠ 7 ♥ 986 ♦ QJ643 ♣ Q75		EAST ♠ 109865 ♥ Q43 ♦ 742 ♣ A105	
SOUTH ♠ AK2 ♥ AQJ5 ♦ K72 ♣ KJ4		NORTH ♠ 7 ♥ 98 ♦ J64 ♣ 7	
WEST ♠ 9865 ♥ Q ♦ — ♣ A9		EAST ♠ 43 ♥ K107 ♦ A ♣ 10	
The bidding: South West North East 2 NT Pass 3 NT Pass Pass Pass Opening lead: Ten of ♠		SOUTH ♠ A2 ♥ AJ5 ♦ 7 ♣ 3	

One reason for a holdup play is to try to shut out the opponents' suit. Another is to try to get a signal from partner on the key card. East was shooting for both these, but got burned in the attempt.

Faced with an unrevealing auction, West led the ten of spades, covered by the jack and queen and won with the ace. Declarer led a diamond to the jack and continued with another to the king as East, afraid that winning the diamond ace too early would give declarer nine tricks, held up for two rounds.

New declarer switched his atten-

The first six tricks were in the bank, and declarer found a pretty way to take three more. He exited with the jack of clubs to West's ace. The defender did the best he could by leading the nine of spades, but this time it was declarer's turn to hold up. On the nine of clubs East discarded a spade, but when West reverted to a spade East declared took his ace of spades and threw East in with the ace of diamonds to force a heart return. The marked finesse produced the ninth trick.